

HUNDRED AND THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

2008



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Presidential Address

To the 133rd Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society
Adyar, 26 December 2008

It is with much pleasure that I welcome all of you to this 133rd International Convention, hoping that those who come will be able to respond to the beautiful atmosphere which is in Adyar all the time. From the very earliest years of the Society people have met here like this — a few in the early days, and many nowadays, to have a Convention so those who can come, meet each other and talk over Theosophical work, and expand inwardly both heart and mind. Let us offer ourselves to the Elder Brethren and make our minds free to receive what they are always ready to give.

May those who are the embodiments of Love immortal bless with their help and guidance this Society, founded to be a channel for their work. May They inspire it with their Wisdom, strengthen it with their Power, and energize it with their Activity.

As you all know, during the first part of this year an election of some importance took place. The election is not meant to be a reason for us to be unreasonable. Until now, the Theosophical Society has completed more than one hundred and thirty years; we may say it has been doing well. But this year, there were some members who regarded the election as an opportunity to compete. Very few members perhaps understand that the Theosophical Society has an inner significance which unites all true members throughout the world, and keeps the structure safe and whole. This time, those who were voting had a choice between someone living in Adyar, which has been called 'The Master's Home', and others who felt that the President can function

just as well, even though he may not reside at Adyar.

The election is over. Dr John Algeo was able to get 4323 votes in his favour, while I received 8560 votes. The number of votes is not important, but as far as I can see it is of much importance to decide from where the President should function.

Adyar should not be seen and thought of merely as an entity without a living force. It seems essential to me that Adyar, and to a lesser extent every Section Headquarters, should demonstrate the essential character of the Society, lifting it above petty concerns. We all have an opportunity to proceed according to the wishes of those higher beings on the ladder of evolution who are watching over the events of earth. It must shake off what

has been useful to people at the time before human incarnation, but have less and less value as they become truly human. This is important for the real human being, not those who are still tainted by the past, to perform its role in evolution. It is the special duty of those who see the mid-point, and appreciate its importance. They learn to abandon all lower concerns, and work towards the heights to which humanity will rise. An election therefore, in the Society, must not be grounded in notions that may take a person into ways that do not help.

What is the way for human beings to rise above to the human stage? The first fact of importance is to realize that many of the thoughts, feelings and actions which surround and instigate us are not compatible with the real work we have to do. As *The Voice of the Silence* says, every person needs 'the gentle breezes of Soul-Wisdom to brush away the dust of our illusions' and blend mind with soul. 'The rose must re-become the bud, born of its parent stem, before the parasite has eaten through its heart . . . The self of matter and the Self of Spirit can never meet.' We human beings must live in such a way that during each incarnation we live purer lives. Therefore we have to strive, not do the contrary.

The human stage is of great importance because from the beginning it is a stage where the animal nature of the candidate is overcome altogether. This conscious work must be carried out, then progress takes place by itself. The student of Theosophy belongs to a category which

is very important for this reason; then at least a few responsible persons will act in a manner which exercises an influence which is spiritual.

The spiritual is different from the material, social, intellectual and religious fields. 'Religion' can be more harmful than helpful if people misunderstand it. It often demands that a person does what he is told to by people who seem very different. But actually, if one does not cling to anything, but seeks only to know in a deeper way life's meaning, it does not matter whether one is Christian, Hindu, Zoroastrian or Muslim or any other category. The truly religious mind is a pure mind.

In the early days of the Society the members had the opportunity to learn rightly what religion is. The motto of the Society (*satyāt nāsti paro dharmah*) 'There is No Religion Higher than Truth' often brings to our mind the Truth about this way of living. The way anyone claims to be on the religious path — behaviour, interest, and so on — indicates what he is. If he is truly religious he learns to be affectionate to all people, not considering whether the other person is poor, rich, well read or simple. The truly religious person and the real Theosophist are not different. Often we think that the religious consciousness depends on words and phrases, but that may be completely wrong; and religion is not dependent on what a person says, but on how a person lives. The person may be a weaver or a tailor dealing with clothes, but essentially pure and carrying purity with him.

In modern days, especially among

Indians, superficiality is stressed. The whole of society depends on the people who are part of it, and on their attitudes. So we can on the whole think of modern society as materialistic as most people are concerned with material values, which is quite opposed to the religious life. The religious person on the other hand applies the values he knows theosophically; he is more concerned with his heart, not with his hands. The hands, the feet, the whole body responds to what the mind requires. Can one do one's work in the world which

may be weaving or anything else, but with the religious quality necessary for raising the consciousness?

As Theosophists, we must, each one of us, be a person showing to those who come along that one can be engaged in almost any work, not involving slaughtering, or cheating and so on, and yet be religious, because the one thing that matters for everyone is the condition of the heart and mind. A Theosophist therefore, tends to be someone different from the ordinary man or woman.

* * *

The Indian Section celebrated its 117th convention, as usual, within the ambience of the International Convention in 2007. The membership of the Section on 30 September 2008 was 12,917. This means that the Indian Section continues to be the largest one we have. Although the names of those who have passed away, and also of those who have not renewed their membership have been removed, it still remains the largest Section in the world. The General Secretary has urged members to go on working steadily towards universal values. It is our responsibility to live Theosophy, not merely study Theosophy. The Section is improving its work though at times it is difficult, but problems are being faced.

Many programmes were arranged throughout the year. More than eighty members attended the North Indian Study Camp. Lectures on *Human Regeneration*,

The Way of Self-Knowledge and *Letters from the Masters of the Wisdom* were discussed. Prof. P. Krishna and Mrs Radha Burnier led another study course on J. Krishnamurti's book, *Freedom from the Known*. One hundred and fifty delegates registered for the South Indian Conference, and several people gave fruitful talks. Many other Federation Programmes took place during the year.

The General Secretary and his wife, Mrs Sundaram, attended the Triennial Conference of the Indo-Pacific Federation which was held early in November in the Philippines. The General Secretary also attended the Marathi Federation Meeting, whose theme was 'Live to Benefit Humanity'. During the Rayalaseema Federation meeting, the centennial issue of the Telugu magazine was presented to the audience, and talks were given by the President. The 125th anniversary of the Anantha Lodge in Trivandrum brought

Kerala members together. The International President, Mrs Radha Burnier, spoke on 'Unity — the Way Ahead'. The National Lecturers travelled all over India, and tried to stimulate the work. All regions throughout India have been active in the work of the Theosophical Order of Service which is divided in such a way that can be effective.

The General Secretary has made an appeal for funds to repair and renew properties which require maintenance. The places where funds have accumulated contribute to this work, which has commenced on some of the Headquarters buildings at Varanasi. During the year some well-known members passed away, including Bro. Anandamurti Srivastava, who was for many years a worker at the Varanasi Headquarters. Swami Anand, former Secretary of the U. P. Federation and Mr V. M. Parmanand who generously donated a lakh of rupees to the Section and belonged to Bombay, were also among those who passed to other regions.

A meeting specially for officers was tried and proved useful. The General Secretary, Mr S. Sundaram, made a number of valuable suggestions, including help with understanding the Rules and Regulations. Office-bearers should now have a somewhat better concept of Lodge level and Federation level work.

Sri Lanka is functioning under a Presidential Agency. It is reported that monthly meetings for members are supplemented with guest speakers delivering talks on various spiritual matters. This is followed by a free lunch.

Three thousand copies of Colonel Olcott's *Buddhist Catechism* were distributed by Hamsa Lodge, Badulla, to schools and the university library. This Lodge also brings out a periodical called *Sanatana Dhamma*.

The Presidential Representative for South-East Asia reports that, due to unrest in the area, it has not been possible to contact all members. The Seramban Lodge in Malaysia has been restarted with the admission of five new members, while in Selangor the work is going on well. In Bangladesh there are five Lodges and a Study Centre. All have regular study classes. The Lodge at Chittagong in eastern Bangladesh has been very active, and along with Besant Lodge is planning to have a meeting to coordinate attempts to strengthen the work.

The Singapore Lodge started the year with 336 members. Forty-one new members have received diplomas this year. Continued focus has been laid on the presentation of *A Course in Theosophy*. This programme is their principal means of attracting new members. Twenty-one members attended the Indo-Pacific Conference in the Philippines. Speakers from India, the Philippines, Australia and America gave lectures during the year. This has been the centenary year for the TOS, and support included help to elderly persons.

The Australian Section has been doing well. Their funds have increased, and their total number of members is 1312. Membership fees are subsidized when needed by the National Headquarters. The National Members receive letters from

the General Secretary who also visited a number of places and spoke at the Lodges. Two new study papers were brought out, one being on *The First Leaf of TS History* in tribute to Colonel Olcott. A copy of *Buddhist Meditation* by Samdhong Rinpoche was sent free to all the members while the *Buddhist Catechism*, in memory of Colonel Olcott, was sent at almost no cost to members. The library of the Section was enriched by a donation of personal files from Elaine Murdoch. A thesis entitled 'A Visionary Space' showing the influence of Theosophy on artists, was donated by Dr Jenny McFarlane to the Campbell Library. The theme of the School of Theosophy was 'Occult Science — Principles and Applications.' The director was Dr Edi Bilimoria. The former President of the Indo-Pacific Federation, Mr Pedro Oliveira, was appreciative of the generous support from the Section.

The New Zealand Section is among one of the bigger ones, having 899 members. While the membership has dropped from 982 to 899, we are told this is due to serious culling in two major centres, but membership in several smaller areas is tending to rise. The new General Secretary, Mr Warwick Keys, believes that there should be greater self-reliance in the future. After a lot of work (some of which was done by the former General Secretary, Mr John Vorstermans) the Charities Act is now in force. The Section magazine has changed its name and format and is now called *TheoSophia*.

The Philippines Section commemorated its 75th anniversary and many old

members were present at an exhibition of the Publishing House in Manila. At the National Headquarters, a workshop for Lodge officers and leaders was held last August. The Golden Link School, which the Section runs, produced its first high school graduates. The Kern Foundation has sent money to help the School. A number of services and workshops have been established to help young people. A meditation group has been started at the National Headquarters. Among those who passed away during the year was Mr Romeo Velarde who has spent much of his energy on Theosophical work after his retirement.

The American Section has had difficulties because of the economic situation. The General Secretary mentions that they have had to tighten their belts and the membership has dropped by 172, making a total of about 4000 members. It is mentioned that fewer people have joined the Society, but more are interested in making use of Internet programmes. There are about 110 groups out of which there are 45 active branches, and the rest are study groups. The Department of Education has been producing study courses and other work, helping to keep the Society alive. The Audio-Video Department produced eighteen new videos and DVDs. The Library has been awarded a grant of \$25,000 which will enable the conversion of the records to a standard electronic format. The Publishing House sales were disappointing, but a multi-faceted approach that was introduced has made

Theosophy offer greater service.

The General Secretary of the Canadian Association, Mrs Lorraine Christensen, reports that many changes for the better have taken place. Mr George Duguay, a former General Secretary, who was instrumental in setting up a website, passed away. The newly appointed officers have been provided with a manual giving guidelines, so that they can proceed confidently. Work on their website is underway, and for the time being the magazine *The Light Bearer* will be produced twice yearly.

The General Secretary, Mr Eric McGough, of the English Section reports that interest in their programmes has increased, resulting in increased membership in many Lodges, and much enthusiasm across the Section. The current membership is 1033 and increase is 35. Redecoration of the Headquarters has been completed. The Welsh Region had its triennial congress in June. A study course on *The Secret Doctrine* is being led by Mr Eric McGough. In March 2008 all the members of the Cardiff Lodge resigned, calling themselves 'The Cardiff Theosophical Society'. But, twenty-five new people became members, adding to eighty-one members in Wales.

Work is going on well in Ireland. Belfast Lodge meets regularly, as does Limerick Lodge. Limerick Lodge, in addition, holds a healing service. There is a good group of members in Coleraine, and a number of meetings have been held in Dublin. The website has been running for some time, and it is hoped to produce

a newsletter. Study notes throughout the year, and a covering letter from Mrs Marie Harkness, have been sent to all the members. A successful convention was held in Dublin, and the members were very happy to meet together.

The General Secretary of the Swedish Section, Mr Pertti Spets, reports that there are seven Lodges in Sweden and some study groups, making a total of 162 members. Studies on Self-culture and Reincarnation have been taken up by the study groups. There have been lectures in Stockholm, and in July the Summer School was held there.

In Norway, the work has been kept alive by the Organizing Secretary, Mrs Agnes Gaasemyr. She reports that the Watch-Tower Notes were sent every month to members, so that they are able to keep in touch with the work. A successful seminar with Prof. P. Krishna was held in May. Meetings to discuss the work, including a website, will be functioning fairly soon. Members are concentrating on making the Lodges work.

The Italian Section and the Finnish Section are among the largest and most active Sections in Europe. The Italian Section has 1077 members, and is preparing to have the World Congress in Rome in 2010. A larger Headquarters, including a publishing house was set up in Vicenza and donations have increased. The Trieste Headquarters has been remodelled, conserving the old charm. Some other places in Italy are managing their resources so that they can improve their Headquarters in the next few years.

The General Secretary, Mr Antonio Girardi, reports many features which show that improvements are taking place, including the distribution of 1300 copies of the magazine *Rivista Italiana di Teosofia* sent to subscribers. Some new Study Centres were opened. The General Secretary visited a number of places giving talks and initiating fresh enthusiasm. Prof. P. Krishna was a special impetus when he took part in a seminar near Venice with about eighty people attending. The Italian Section helps Eastern countries, the work of the Olcott Education Society in India, educational activities in Pakistan and Manila, and so on. The General Secretary reports that they have taken an interest in the publication of books by Madame Maria Montessori, who was a member of the Society in Italy.

The Theosophical Society in Spain held as usual in March the Iberian gathering. The subject discussed was *Search for the Path Going Inside*, and about sixty-seven persons attended. There was also a Summer School on the subject of *Human Perfection*, and 130 persons attended. The Theosophical Publishing House brought out several books.

In Portugal, the General Secretary, Dr Licio Correia, reported that the Section is working with enthusiasm and commitment. Some members have been studying Theosophical works and others are focusing on a basic course in Theosophy. All basic Theosophical festivals were duly celebrated, and every month a lecture was given by an invited lecturer. Last June the two Lodges in Porto inaugurated their new

premises. A talk was given on this occasion, and some members from Lisbon attended.

The work of the four Lodges in Slovenia continues. A mini school, a winter school and also a summer school were part of the programme, and a few members from Croatia came. There are seventy-one members in this Section, and we hope that it will increase because of the enthusiasm of the members.

Mr Thomas Martinovich, who looks after the Hungarian TS, reports that regular monthly meetings are held, usually concluding with group meditation. Some books were translated and are available on the computer. Public lectures were held at Budapest four times a year and once a month in another place. Their goal is to increase the number of Lodge members. In the eastern Lodge of Debrecen, 'Living Questions on Theosophy' were discussed, and articles and material from *The Theosophist* were made known to the participants.

The Theosophical Society in Finland has been active as usual with many kinds of programmes that are held in their summer house in Kreivila in cooperation with Theosophically-based organizations. A new Lodge called Isis-Iooz was started. The web pages of I. K. Taimni's *Science of Yoga* and Rohit Mehta's *Creative Silence* were compiled in Finnish, while Ms Eeva Hippula compiled a book entitled *Notes about the History of Finnish Theosophy*. The activities in Estonia have generally been useful. There is a good library in Tallin and several in other

places. At the end of September 2008, the Section had 460 members.

The French Section has been carrying on in the usual way studying *The Mahatma Letters* under the leadership of Ms Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu. Prof. Robert Ellwood and his wife were the main guests at the Summer School of the Latin countries. The German Section is still quite small. The weekend meetings in the north of the country and the usual Summer School in Lippstadt, with the subject 'Joy — Divine Spark', took place. A new General Secretary, and a new Committee have been elected, and we hope that the Section will do good work as a result.

In Greece, after a period of transition, Mr Theodoros Katsifis was elected as the General Secretary, with Mrs Erica Georgiades as the Secretary. We are told that the Section has approximately 150% more members, and four new Lodges have been founded. The Headquarters of the Society in Greece was extensively renovated, and a study room has been established. They have very many publishing and translating projects underway. The official magazine *Ilisos* has 600 subscribers in Greece and abroad. It is published every three months, and every year articles by well-known Theosophists are included in their magazine.

In Iceland, the General Secretary reported that fifty-one meetings were held during the year, with an attendance of between forty and sixty. There are seven active Lodges in Iceland with two outside the capital. Open-house meetings, with programmes including dialogue,

DVD films with discussion, and refreshments are held weekly. The income from the refreshments helped to run the Section Headquarters. Approximately sixty members attended a summer seminar in Estonia.

The Dutch Section had a difficult year during which two members were expelled. The Headquarters in Amsterdam has a number of people carrying out research, and it seems as if the library has an increasing membership. This Section has nine Lodges and seven Study Centres, with a total of 398 members.

The Theosophical Society in East and Central Africa is spread over four countries. Some short talks are given in Gujarati, apart from the English talks, because there are people who do not know English. The important Theosophical days were observed. Two youth seminars were arranged in Nairobi. The statistics show a decrease in membership, but this is inevitable because Indians are leaving, and many Africans are not yet familiar with the Theosophical point of view. The TOS has been celebrating its centenary and they hope that the authorities concerned will issue a stamp to mark this occasion.

The West African Section continues its work which covers the English-speaking countries, namely, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon and Liberia. The studies during the year were concentrated on the Ancient Wisdom. Many Theosophical volumes were sold in the bookshop in Ghana, and the study groups also used books from this source. Two journalists interviewed the General Secretary about the aims of the

Society and an article was printed in a newspaper called *The Moment*. Mr John Boakye, who assists the General Secretary, attended the School of the Wisdom at Adyar. Free copies of *At the Feet of the Master*, translated in the Twi language, were distributed to all the members who do not know English. On the Ivory Coast, weekly meetings were held. Many members and sympathizers studied *The Key to Theosophy*. These studies are particularly helpful for younger members. The work on the African Headquarters building has progressed well, the ground and first floors having been completed. In spite of the difficult ongoing political situation in Africa, the Pan-African Federation's Chairman, Mr Tom Davis, reported that activities continue, and their newsletter is distributed regularly.

From Southern Africa, the General Secretary, Mrs Susan Kaschula reports that a new Lodge with twenty-nine members was chartered. This is the first new Lodge in fifty-eight years. The use of Prof. K. V. K. Nehru's PowerPoint presentation was successful. Attempts are being made to revive the work in Cape Town and Durban.

The President of the Inter-American Federation, Mrs Terezinha Kind, reports that the 'First All Central American Convention' was held in El Salvador and resulted in an increase of members, mostly in the Central American countries. The larger Sections are encouraged to help smaller neighbours by interchanging information, materials and experiences.

The IATF Newsletter is distributed twice yearly. At all meetings, there is an emphasis on working together under the guidance of the International Headquarters in Adyar.

Argentina has been active, particularly in the San Rafael centre. They have had a number of sessions with various members including one with younger members. In Mendoza and San Rafael, there were two conferences and a winter school, with thirty-one people in attendance. Similarly, other areas have had gatherings. *The Theosophist* has been translated, and sent to all members in addition to their own magazine. The total number of members is 333. The book *Transformation from the Internal to the External* was printed and distributed, and revision of the *Theosophical Glossary* is being prepared.

The General Secretary of Brazil reports that the membership is now 776, which shows a reduction. Some Lodges and study groups have closed. The system of paying annual dues in instalments is going on. Every year a renewal appeal is made to members asking for their contributions to support the Theosophical work. Two thousand copies of their magazine *Sophia* is published and distributed every three months. There were three national gatherings which studied various Theosophical subjects, including the writings of Clara Codd, N. Sri Ram and I. K. Taimni.

Special meetings are held at the Headquarters and the lectures were useful. The Theosophical Institute in Brazil also held seminars and workshops. Members in all regions participated in various

programmes. The work is going on well in other places besides Brasilia. The advertising department has done a lot of work, especially preparing talks and seminars which they can broadcast. The TOS is also active and publishes a journal of its own. The Raja Centre holds several seminars during each year.

The three Lodges in Costa Rica are active. A workshop on Therapeutic Touch was conducted by Mrs Nelda Samarel when she visited the country. In Cartago, under the leadership of Mrs Anna Howell, *The Voice of the Silence* was studied. The Society has been given permission by the government to build a 700 sq. m. building. Study programmes are regularly conducted, and a national gathering took place during the year. Meetings were organized by all the Lodges and Mrs Isis Resende visited some of them.

The Mexican Section held a series of nineteen public lectures from March to August on 'What is the Invisible in Theosophy?'. At their National Headquarters a new course was started by Ms Lissette Arroyo called 'Me and Theosophy'. The Mexican Section celebrated all the Theosophical dates and their own anniversary.

In the Ukraine, two Lodges with more than fifty members are working regularly. The keynote of the last year was 'The Inner Guidance Comes from Within'. About a hundred persons participated, coming not only from various places in the Ukraine, but also from Russia, Kiev, Odessa, etc.

In Peru, the Lodges organized talks in October and November which proved to be useful. There are twenty-nine members

at present. Their magazine could not be published because of financial difficulties. The TOS has been active and the first stage of a three-stage effort to recover their property has been initiated.

In Bolivia, a national gathering took place on 'The Path of Discipleship' in San Benito in April. A similar gathering on 'The Way to Adeptship' was held in August. Mrs Isis Resende visited several cities. Weekly meetings continue at the four Lodges. The Theosophical Society in Bolivia is the legal owner of a flat in the town of La Paz.

In Uruguay, all the Theosophical commemorations were celebrated. The total membership is sixty-six. The study of books and informal meetings continue. In Venezuela, work goes on as usual, and includes the commemorations of the Society, their main theme during the year being 'Theosophy as a Process of Healing'. Another small region was Central America, where there are thirty-one members in Nicaragua, and some more in El Salvador and Guatemala. The passing of Mrs Carmen Aguilar Alvarez in Guatemala was a loss, but a new Organizing Secretary has been elected.

The General Secretary of Indonesia reports that a new group with about twenty-five members was formed in Kaliabu in February. A translation of *The Etheric Double* was translated some years ago and has been published for internal use in Java. Two Study Camps near Malang, focusing on the seven manuals of Theosophy, were attended by about twenty participants. Money was distributed

to the necessary agencies to assist with overcoming earthquake damage. The annual convention was held in the Sala Lodge in Surakarta.

The Theosophical Order of Service has been celebrating its centenary and this involved planning further work that can be done. I am glad to say that there is much more interest than there used to be, and this can be attributed to the enthusiasm of the organizing head, Mrs Diana Dunningham Chapotin.

The Olcott Education Society at Adyar has four main activities, one of which is the HPB Hostel with twenty students. The training given to the hostel boys is such that it will not alienate the boys from their family and relatives. Ninety-one children attend the Social Welfare Centre. The tailoring course issued certificates for work done to produce various items. At the Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary, Dr P. D. Jagannathan and his team cared for more than 8000 animals; a small

proportion of them underwent the operation to control births. The outreach programme operates in six areas, and 80 to 100 animals are treated on most visits.

The work of the Theosophical Publishing House has continued to be satisfactory with good sales figures. Three revised editions were printed and twenty-two books were reprinted and brought out during the year. The Adyar Library acquired quite a number of books; Miss Mary Anderson donated many from her collection. The work of cataloguing continues. The Library readers numbered 2091 and borrowers 835. Lamination of books has been lagging because of a dearth of the films required. Many visitors and scholars continue to visit the Library.

The Besant Scouting Centre during the year had 1600 young people using the facilities, and during their stay, they gained some appreciation of the Theosophical Society. This activity admits many into the ambience of the Society.

* * *

We learn from Theosophical literature that the universe is made up of vast, in fact unknown, areas and these are related to everything that we know at this external level. Scientists may acknowledge this fact, because the more they discover of the limitlessness of the universe, the more appears to be ahead of them. But the scientist has as yet no knowledge of this. Throughout the vast course of evolution everything has converged to bring about more and more intelligence; it is like a flower that opens itself ever more

beautifully. We know that there is a great difference in intelligence between living creatures, but we are unable to say why. The difference between the intelligence of ants and bees and the larger intelligence of the elephants or dogs, between rather primitive human beings and the brilliant man or woman, has no explanation. They all seem to be developing, but are not the same. We have to open our inner eyes to understand this.

We learn while studying Theosophy about the Great Plan. It is a mode in which

the divine mind makes known something of its own nature. Real knowledge may have something to do with knowing how the mind becomes divine. Knowledge is unlimited when it can understand all this. In the philosophical literature of India they say that knowing the external includes not only the phenomenal but also noumenal. When we live in desires and thoughts stimulated by sense-experience, we are unable to be aware of subtler dimensions.

The Masters wrote about something which seems simple, but is difficult to follow. This is knowledge of our neighbours. Who are they? In *The Key to Theosophy* Madame Blavatsky indicates that the book contains not only what the reader may require, but the basis of Theosophy, and this can be passed on to our neighbours. A philanthropic attitude must go side by side with an altruistic spirit. Knowledge cannot be an objective by itself. This is clearly stated in one of the letters from the Masters, 'Be a missionary of love and charity.'

We tend to look charitably at ourselves, and ignore weaknesses, but harp

on about the weaknesses of other people. But the others are struggling as much as ourselves. Therefore we must try to be more open, and widen our feelings. Obstacles to understanding are many, and include lust, illusion and hatred, which do not help us to understand. Hence, never add fuel to the fire.

When we are more in harmony with the divine mind, we make room for a little part of the knowledge to come down here. An uncharitable attitude indicates ignorance about the divine mind. In Indian tradition, listening with the heart is said to be part of learning. If once we begin to learn of the presence of what we may call God, the consciousness becomes deeper and knows more. *The Voice of the Silence* says: 'Before the soul can see, the harmony within must be attained.' A condition of being awake to the spiritual more and more, the harmony 'within' may be achieved. The preparation may be more important than getting wisdom, because the condition of the heart and mind allows contact, or fails to do so, depending on ourselves. Let us ponder and learn. ♦

THE TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

TREASURER'S REPORT 2007-2008

The salient features of the Income and Expenditure Account of the Society for the year ended 31st March 2008 are as under:

1. Income:

The Income for the year was Rs. 12,288,370/-. The details are as follows:

	Year ended 31.03.2007	Year ended 31.03.2008
	Rs.	Rs.
Interest Received	13,127,294	15,691,499
Interest Accrued and not Due	1,495,910	1,573,324
Fees and Dues	2,386,770	1,789,913
Surplus from		
Bhojanasala and Leadbeater Chambers	30,859	—
Theosophical Publishing House	1,179,963	1,332,337
Vasanta Press	(177,666)	103,339
General Donations	206,044	406,734
Licence Fees	132,000	132,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	<u>82,605</u>	<u>13,849</u>
	18,463,779	21,042,995
Less: Interest transferred to earmarked funds	6,383,416	7,794,863
Interest accrued & not due of previous year	<u>1,608,028</u>	<u>959,762</u>
	<u>10,472,335</u>	<u>12,288,370</u>

The net interest income received for the year was Rs.7,778,917/-, after deducting the previous year's accrued interest of Rs.959,762/- and transferring a sum of Rs.6,952,820/- to earmarked funds. The gross interest for the year ended 31.03.08 has increased by Rs.2,564,205/- as compared to the previous year, as interest rates were higher than the previous year and also on account of foreclosure and renewal of fixed deposits in the last year to take advantage of higher interest rates. Interest accrued and not due (Gross) amounts to Rs.1,573,324/- as of 31.3.2008, compared to Rs.1,495,910/- of the previous year.

The Fees and Dues received during the year amounted to Rs.1,789,913/-, as against Rs.2,386,770/- in the previous year. The Theosophical Publishing House (TPH) shows a surplus of Rs.1,332,337/- in the current year, as against Rs.1,179,963/- in the previous year. Though the sales in TPH are reduced to Rs.3,040,647/- in the current year, as compared to Rs.3,903,210/- in the previous year, the surplus has increased due to higher interest income and reduction in expenditure. Vasanta Press has a surplus of Rs.103,339/- for the year, as against the deficit of Rs.177,666/- for the previous year. General Donations received during the year amounted to Rs.406,734/-, as against Rs.206,044/- in the previous year.

2. Expenditure:

The net expenditure of the Society for the year is Rs.16,700,348/-, as against Rs.17,125,930/- in the previous year. The break-up is as follows:

	Year ended 31.03.2007 Rs.	Year ended 31.03.2008 Rs.
Departments	5,604,086	7,099,032
Charitable work	4,147,839	3,017,531
Propagation of Theosophy	1,931,700	1,749,911
International Offices	684,274	597,861
Establishment	2,916,791	2,930,409
Other Expenses	<u>1,841,240</u>	<u>1,305,604</u>
	<u>17,125,930</u>	<u>16,700,348</u>

(a) Departments

The net expenditure of the Departments for the year is Rs.7,099,032/-, compared to Rs.5,604,086/- in the previous year, an increase of Rs.1,494,946/-. The broad details are as follows:

Departments	Year ended 31.03.2007 Rs.	Year ended 31.03.2008 Rs.
Bhojanasala and		
Leadbeater Chambers	—	403,264
Garden	941,784	905,687
Maintenance	<u>4,662,302</u>	<u>5,790,081</u>
	<u>5,604,086</u>	<u>7,099,032</u>

Bhojanasala and Leadbeater Chambers show a deficit of Rs.403,264/- in the current year, as against the surplus of Rs.30,859/- in the previous year. Boarding receipts have come down from Rs.812,314/- to Rs.725,252/- during the year. We are providing food at subsidized rates. Lodging shows a deficit of Rs.75,764/-, as against a surplus of Rs.231,598/- in the previous year, mainly because quarters' maintenance receipts are less by Rs.285,905/-. The renovation of Leadbeater Chambers has to be taken up and it will involve considerable outlay.

The deficit in the Garden is Rs.905,687/- in the current year, compared to Rs.941,784/- in the previous year. Efforts are being made to mechanize the work in the garden as there is difficulty in getting labour. During the year, the Executive Committee has decided to transfer the expenditure on the nursery to general maintenance, as we are not selling nursery products to the public. Income from garden produce is more by Rs.76,481/- in the current year compared to the previous year.

In respect of the Maintenance Department, the net expenditure has increased to Rs.5,790,081/- in the current year, compared to Rs.4,662,302/- in the previous year. The following were the major expenses:

	Year ended 31.03.2007	Year ended 31.03.2008
	Rs.	Rs.
Electricity Charges	1,846,422	1,892,712
Water Supply Installations Maintenance	272,231	190,506
Telephones	32,880	41,886
Electrical Installation Maintenance	252,527	199,077
Sanitary Installations Maintenance	85,621	78,644
Boundaries	9,036	439,968
Repairs and Maintenance of Buildings	2,448,379	3,243,865
Other Maintenance costs including Depreciation	447,226	462,328
Office Salaries and Other Expenses	<u>753,158</u>	<u>798,664</u>
	6,147,480	7,347,650
Less: Recoveries	<u>1,485,178</u>	<u>1,557,569</u>
Net Deficit	<u>4,662,302</u>	<u>5,790,081</u>

As usual, the repairs and maintenance of buildings and the electricity cost constitute a significant part of the overall expenses of the Maintenance Department, besides other expenses such as maintenance of water supply and electrical installations, boundaries and office costs. Many buildings are old and will need renovation in the next few years. Boundary walls also need reconstruction at many places and we may require over 3 to 4 million rupees. Moreover, the cost of building materials like cement, iron, and for electrical and plumbing work, etc., has increased considerably. Labour has also become scarce and expensive. Therefore, a significant increase in the maintenance department expenditure is anticipated in the coming years.

(b) Charitable Work

The amount spent on charitable work for the year was Rs.3,017,531/-, as against Rs.4,147,839/- in the previous year. Charitable expenses include the amount spent on education, animal welfare, hostel, social welfare and medical aid.

(c) Propagation of Theosophy

The expenditure on Propagation of Theosophy for the year was as follows:

	Year ended 31.03.2007	Year ended 31.03.2008
	Rs.	Rs.
Adyar Library and Research Centre (Net)	861,139	854,334
<i>The Theosophist</i> and <i>Adyar Newsletter</i> ..	44,547	92,289
Archives and Museum ..	105,197	101,767
School of the Wisdom (Gross)	112,726	68,807
Book Gifts ..	253,339	69,534
Convention and Seminars ..	514,419	552,782
Others	<u>40,333</u>	<u>10,398</u>
	<u>1,931,700</u>	<u>1,749,911</u>

In the case of the Adyar Library, the net deficit is Rs.854,334/- in the current year, as against Rs.861,139/- in the previous year. *The Theosophist* and *Adyar Newsletter* show a deficit of Rs.92,289/- in the current year, an increase of Rs.47,742/- over the previous year due to a fall in subscriptions. This deficit is likely to increase in 2008-2009 as there is a significant increase in the overseas postal rates. The expenditure of the School of the Wisdom is Rs.68,807/- in the current year, compared to Rs.112,726/- in the previous year. An amount of Rs.69,534/- was utilized for book gifts as compared to Rs.253,339/- in the previous year.

(d) Other Costs:

The total cost of Establishment and International Offices was Rs.3,528,270/-, as against Rs.3,601,065/- in the previous year.

3. Net Surplus:

There is a surplus of Rs.409,140/- in the current year, the actual surplus being Rs.637,621/- after taking into account interest accrued but not due, as against the actual deficit of Rs.290,181/- in the previous year. The surplus is mainly because of increase in interest income.

4. Capital Expenditure:

The total amount spent on capital account was Rs.17,12,102/- and relates to the extension of the craft centre building in Olcott Memorial High School, a photocopy machine, computers, printer, furniture, etc.

5. Overall Position:

The overall financial position of the Society continues to be satisfactory. During the year, the Adyar Besant Commemorative Fund, which is the Society's main endowment fund rose from Rs.57,269,408/- to Rs.57,722,725/- and Other Funds from Rs.104,201,750/- to Rs.108,270,023/-.

Although the overall financial position seems to be satisfactory, when viewed against ever-increasing finance requirements for repairing/renovating a number of old buildings, the compound wall, and providing somewhat reasonable remuneration to the employees, liberal donations from members and sympathizers are sought.

6. Acknowledgement:

On behalf of the Society, I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for the continued support of members throughout the world.

Chennai
Date: 25 October 2008

K. S. DASTUR
Honorary Treasurer

FEES AND DUES RECEIVED

From 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008 (in Rupees)

Name of Section etc.		2006-2007	2007-2008
The Theosophical Society in:	Africa, South	7019	8064
	Argentina	52680	—
	Asia, South-East	12657	997
	Australia	126821	126902
	Austria	5931	—
	Belgium	23374	27968
	Bolivia	22745	19153
	Brazil	86105	322811
	Canada	27343	—
	Chile	18268	—
	Costa Rica	2620	15558
	Dominic Republic	—	9490
	England	408669	—
	Finland	88510	119657
	France	138211	—
	Germany	41674	37654
	Hungary	20539	—
	Iceland	20840	21354
	India	69990	88499
	Indonesia	2823	—
	Ireland, Northern	13474	—
	Italy	141507	139306
	Kenya	—	8604
	Mexico	22125	19350
	Netherlands	104070	—
	New Zealand	24227	24120
	Norway	4425	4682
	Peru	6487	5455
	Philippines, The	42270	—

Portugal	21907	22827
Puerto Rico	31098	20889
Slovenia	—	11708
Spain	75700	76653
Sweden	22478	22609
Switzerland	20542	20740
USA	552486	506569
Uruguay	9182	12415
Venezuela	—	8730
Wales	10589	6115
Lodges attached to Adyar:		
Israel	29419	23296
Japan	—	2319
Croatia	6622	6000
Ukraine	15543	15643
Fellows-at-large	55800	34564

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THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
BALANCE SHEET AS

[illegible]

This is the Balance Sheet referred to in our report.

For FRASER & ROSS
Chartered Accountants

BHAVANI BALASUBRAMANIAM
Partner

CHENNAI
Date:18 Sep 2008

AT 31ST MARCH 2008

As at 31-3-2007	ASSETS	Schedule No.	As at 31-3-2008	
Rs. 13,891,100	Fixed Assets	1	Rs.	Rs. 14,506,089
	Investments: (At cost)	2		
	In Scheduled Banks, Financial Institutions, Public Sector Undertakings and Units with Unit Trust of India and Other Mutual Funds.			
181,494,191	(Including Legacy Deposits)			186,791,776
	Current Assets, Loans and Advances:			
7,635,159	Stocks	3	8,366,226	
1,464,089	Sundry Debtors		1,438,518	
5,170,634	Cash and Bank Balances	4	3,997,639	
1,732,923	Loans and Advances	5	2,166,812	
16,002,805				15,969,195
1,493,523	Interest Accrued and Not Due			1,573,324
212,881,619				218,840,384

Schedule Numbers 1 to 7 and Notes on Accounts form part of the Balance Sheet.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee of
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

K.S. DASTUR
Hony. Treasurer

**THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

Year ended 31-3-2007	EXPENDITURE	Year ended 31-3-2008	
Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
	Departments: (Net Expenditure)		
—	Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers	403,264	
941,784	Garden	905,687	
4,662,302	Maintenance	5,790,081	
5,604,086			7,099,032
	Charitable Work:		
1,224,777	Animal Welfare	636,927	
1,960,000	Education	1,509,800	
18,740	Welfare Grants	15,260	
237,920	Free Dispensary and Medical Aid	206,624	
81,600	School Fees and Books	65,300	
319,402	Social Welfare Work	162,020	
200,000	H.P.B.Hostel	400,000	
83,800	Theosophical Order of Service	—	
21,600	Others	21,600	
4,147,839			3,017,531
	Propagation of Theosophy:		
861,139	Adyar Library and Research Centre (Net)	854,334	
44,547	<i>The Theosophist</i> and <i>Adyar Newsletter</i> "	92,289	
11,935	Information and Public Relations "	8,149	
105,197	Archives and Museum "	101,767	
28,398	Theosophy Science Centre "	2,249	
1,051,216		1,058,788	
112,726	School of the Wisdom (Gross)	68,807	
253,339	Book Gift "	69,534	
514,419	Convention & Seminars "	552,782	
880,484		691,123	
1,931,700			1,749,911
	International Offices:		
46,474	President and Vice-President	33,385	
392,037	Treasurer	337,711	
245,763	Secretary	226,765	
684,274			597,861
	Establishment:		
201,113	Headquarters	220,986	
123,929	General Manager's Office	136,565	
311,400	Housekeeping	330,995	
228,595	Sanitation	243,985	
2,051,754	Security	1,997,878	
2,916,791			2,930,409
15,284,690	c / f		15,394,744

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2008

Year ended 31-3-2007		Year ended 31-3-2008	
Rs.	INCOME	Rs.	Rs.
	Departments: (Net Income)		—
30,859	Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers		
	Propagation of Theosophy: (Net Income)		
1,179,963	The Theosophical Publishing House		1,332,337
-177,666	Vasanta Press		103,339
206,044	General Donations		406,734
13,127,294	Interest Received	15,691,499	
1,608,028	Less : Reversal of previous year accrued interest	959,762	
11,519,266		14,731,737	
5,847,268	Less : Transferred to Various Funds	6,952,820	
5,671,998			7,778,917
1,495,910	Interest Accrued And not Due	1,573,324	
536,148	Less : Transferred to Various Funds	842,043	
959,762			731,281
2,386,770	Fees and Dues		1,789,913
132,000	License Fees		132,000
82,605	Miscellaneous Receipts		13,849
938,447	Deficit		—
11,410,782	c / f		12,288,370

**THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**

Year ended 31-3-2007	EXPENDITURE - <i>Contd</i>	Year ended 31-3-2008	
Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
15,284,690	b/f		15,394,744
	Other Expenses:		
13,758	Insurance	22,003	
42,126	Legal and Court Expenses	—	
93,979	Audit Fees	123,313	
457,778	Rates and Taxes	173,459	
1,220	Bank Charges	1,585	
884,024	Depreciation	857,763	
36,543	Motor Car Expenses	43,363	
221,609	Miscellaneous	85,480	
90,203	Provision for Gratuity	44,596	
—	Provision for leave encashment	-45,958	
1,841,240			1,305,604
17,125,930			16,700,348
	Less : Transfer from other Funds		
291,109	Adyar Estate Improvement Fund	520,934	
50,000	Security	46,000	
287,306	Garden	304,000	
	Charitable Work:		
1,224,777	Animal Welfare	636,927	
1,541,220	Education	1,509,800	
295,313	Social Welfare Work	95,000	
200,000	H.P.B.Hostel	163,000	
83,800	Theosophical Order of Service	—	
	Propagation of Theosophy:		
861,139	Adyar Library and Research Centre	854,334	
112,726	School of the Wisdom	68,807	
253,339	Book Gift	69,534	
514,419	Convention & Seminars	552,782	
5,715,148			4,821,118
11,410,782			11,879,230
—	Surplus transferred to General Fund		409,140
11,410,782			12,288,370

This is the Income and Expenditure Account referred to in our report of even date.

For FRASER & ROSS
Chartered Accountants

BHAVANI BALASUBRAMANIAN
Partner

CHENNAI
Date: 18 Sep 2008

ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2008

Year ended 31-3-2007	INCOME - <i>Contd.</i>	Year ended 31-3-2008
Rs. 11,410,782	b/f	Rs. 12,288,370
11,410,782		12,288,370

Notes on Accounts form part of these Accounts.

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee of
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

K.S. DASTUR
Hony. Treasurer

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31-3-2010

(Rupees in Thousands)

EXPENDITURE				INCOME			
	Budget 07-08	Actuals 07-08	Budget 09-10		Budget 07-08	Actuals 07-08	Budget 09-10
Departments (Net Expenditure)				Propagation of Theosophy			
Bhojanasala & Leadbeater Chambers	337	403	509	Theosophical Publishing House	1,157	1,332	819
Garden	821	906	926	<i>The Theosophist & Adyar Newsletter</i>	22	-	-
Maintenance	5,243	5,790	7,264	Vasanta Press	39	103	-
Utilization from Other Funds	-	-824	-800	General Donations	200	407	400
Charitable Work				Interest (Net)	8,500	7,779	9,000
Animal Welfare	1,100	637	1,000	Interest Accrued and not due (net)	-	731	1,000
Education	1,100	1,510	1,500	Membership Fees and Dues	1,800	1,790	2,200
Welfare Grants	25	15	25	Licence Fees	132	132	132
Free Dispensary & Medical Aid	250	207	250	Miscellaneous Receipts	200	14	50
School Fees and Books	90	65	100	Net Deficit	401	-	366
Social Welfare Work	400	162	200				
H.P.B. Hostel	400	400	200				
TOS	400	-	200				
Others	30	22	30				
Utilization from Other Funds	-3,400	-2,404	-3,200				
Propagation of Theosophy							
Adyar Library and Research Centre	759	854	1,055				
<i>The Theosophist & Adyar Newsletter</i>	-	92	108				
Vasanta Press	-	-	45				
Information and Public Relations	10	8	10				
Archives and Museum	150	102	150				
Theosophy Science Centre	50	2	20				
School of the Wisdom	100	69	100				
Book Gift	300	69	300				
Convention & Seminars	-	553	-				
Workers' Training Camp	20	-	20				
Utilization from Other Funds	-1,159	-1,545	-1,800				
International Offices							
President and Vice-President	60	33	60				
Treasurer	380	338	400				
Secretary	280	227	280				
Establishment							
Headquarters	225	221	240				
General Manager's Office	125	136	140				
Housekeeping	300	331	360				
Sanitation	225	244	270				
Security	2,000	1,998	2,500				
Utilization from Other Funds	-	-46	-50				
Other Expenses							
Insurance Premiums	20	22	30				
Legal Expenses	40	-	40				
Audit Fees	100	123	150				
Rates and Taxes	200	173	300				
Bank Charges	10	1	5				
Depreciation	1,100	858	800				
Motor Car Maintenance	60	43	60				
Miscellaneous	200	85	100				
Provision for Gratuity	100	44	70				
Provision for leave encashment	-	-45	-				
Excess of Income over Exp.	-	409	-				
	12,451	12,288	13,967		12,451	12,288	13,967

HEADQUARTERS

**ADYAR, CHENNAI 600 020
INDIA**

OFFICERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR 2008

Executive Committee:

1.	Mrs Radha Burnier	<i>President</i>
2.	Dr John Algeo	<i>Vice-President</i>
3.	Miss Mary Anderson	<i>Secretary</i>
4.	Miss Keshwar Dastur	<i>Treasurer</i>
5.	Mr D. K. Govindaraj	<i>General Council Member</i>
6.	Mr Conrad Jamieson	<i>General Council Member</i>
7.	Mr Sriram Panchu	
8.	Dr C. V. Agarwal	
9.	Mr S. Harihara Raghavan	

General Manager

Adyar Library

*Director
Librarian*

Mr S. Harihara Raghavan

Dr S. Sankaranarayanan

Prof. C. A. Shinde

Bhojanasala

Mrs Usha Umakant Rao

Garden

Mr Shailendra Agrawal

Housekeeping

Mrs Radha Muthiah

Information

Mr Conrad Jamieson

Leadbeater Chambers

Mrs Uma Nilakanta

Maintenance

Superintendent

Mr M. Dharmalingam

Medical Service

Dr S. D. Inbaraj

Museum and Archives

Dr C. V. Agarwal

Sanitation

Mr T. S. Swaminathan

School of the Wisdom

Secretary

Dr S. Siddhartha

Security

Mr J. Suresh

Theosophical Publishing House

Mr S. Ramu

Vasanta Press

Mr S. Harihara Raghavan

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

Chairman President, TS

Secretary Miss Sumana Kale

Treasurer Mr S. M. Umakant Rao

Olcott Memorial School

Headmistress Mrs Lakshmi Suryanarayanan

HPB Hostel

Mrs Vijaya Ravindran

Social Welfare Centre

Mrs Mythili

Besant Memorial Animal Dispensary

Dr P. D. Jagannathan

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THE THEOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE

The overall financial performance of The Theosophical Publishing House (TPH) during the year April 2007 to March 2008 continued to be satisfactory despite a drop in sales to export markets and in the Adyar Bookshop (due to decreasing access and visibility to the general public; and recessionary trends). TPH currently transferred a surplus of Rupees 6.5 million to the Society's main account from profits generated over the last three years.

Twenty-five reprints and revised editions of books were brought out during the period October 2007 to September 2008.

TPH donated selected books to seventeen libraries of prisons in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Output from the editorial office has been affected due to inadequate number of skilled typesetters and proofreaders. Work in the TPH office is also under some strain because of lower number of clerical staff.

The software for the online bookstore <http://www.adyarbooks.com> is still under development and is expected to be completed shortly.

Mr S. Ramu
General Manager

THE ADYAR LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTRE

The centre is functioning efficiently under the able guidance of International President Smt Radha S. Burnier, the former director of Adyar Library and Research Centre, and the present director Dr S. Sankaranarayanan. There are twenty-one workers in the Library working cooperatively under the supervision of Smt Parvati Gopalaratnam (former Librarian), Prof. C. A. Shinde, Librarian, and Smt Gnanambal Laxman, Deputy Librarian. The centre is very happy to congratulate Mrs Radha Burnier on being reelected as the International President of the Theosophical Society for a further term of office from 17 July 2008. The Adyar Library has acquired many books by way of purchase and donations during this year and it thanks the donors for their noble

act, particularly Miss Mary Anderson, who donated her own Library.

Recent Publications:

1. *Brahmavidya* Colonel Henry Steel Olcott Death Centenary Commemoration Volume, 68-70 (2004-06).

2. *The Dialogue of Plato and the Upanishad-s* by N. Kazanas.

3. *Badarayana and Vyasa as Authors of the Brahmasutra: A Historical Analysis* by S. Sankaranarayanan.

4. *Anyapadesapancasat* of Painganadu Ganapati Sastri, edited by T. M. Ramani.

5. *Taraptapaughasutra-Krodartha-vada* edited by N. Sowri Rajan.

6. *Vedic and Mesopotamian Interactions* by N. Kazanas.

7. *Spiritualscape of Upanisad-s* by R. Balasubramanian.

8. *Tapas in the Bhagavadgitā* by Minoru Hara.

Recent Reprints:

1. *Samnyasa Upanisad-s* English translation by Prof. A. A. Ramanathan
2. *Vaisnava Upanisad* Text.
3. *Sakta Upanisad-s* Text.
4. *The Yoga Upanisad-s* Translation.

Works nearing completion:

1. Adyar Library Bulletin 71/2007.
2. *Descriptive Catalogue of MSS on Astronomy and Mathematics* by Dr K. V. Sarma.
3. Introduction to *Chandogyopanishad* by Dr S. Sankaranarayanan.
4. *Gangesa's Philosophy of God* by Dr S. J. John Vattanky.

Acquisition and Cataloguing:

During the year under report 347 books were purchased and 2575 books were accessed, 1376 books were catalogued and added to the Library collections.

We are thankful for the 2238 books received from various sources as gifts. Most of the books are from the President's Office, TPH, Secretary's Office, TPH Wheaton, Editorial Office, Dr K. K. Raja's collection, Miss Mary Anderson and Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan.

Service Rendered:

During the year under report a total of

28921 frames of photocopies were taken, out of which 20160 frames were Palm Leaf MSS, 1667 frames Paper MSS, 517 frames of Transcripts, 1855 rare books, 134 frames and another 4503 frames of books for Adyar Library.

During the year under report 2091 Readers and 835 Borrowers used the Library and consulted 8528 books and borrowed 1279 books; 120 rare books, 25 MSS were consulted.

Conservation and Preservation:

There is a dearth of lamination films and hence lamination work is lagging behind but 302 books were repaired, 250 books were bound and 25 books were photocopied.

Computer Section:

500 cards were catalogued and entered, and 1500 cards were checked.

Scholars:

Nine scholars from various universities used the Library, out of which seven were from the University of Madras, two from Universities in Germany, and one from elsewhere abroad.

Visitors:

1233 visitors visited the Library during the year.

Prof. C. A. Shinde
Librarian

THE SCHOOL OF THE WISDOM

The first session in the 2008 calendar year was in January. The Director of studies was Mr Colin Price, a retired research scientist and a lifelong Bible student, and General Secretary of the

English Section of the TS since 1999. The theme of the course was *Theosophy, Science, and Esoteric Science*. Mr Price discussed the relevance of Esoteric Science to current religious, philosophical, and

scientific ideas, by exploring the Theosophical teachings in depth, under separate headings. He led the participants to the conclusion that Theosophy provides answers to many questions on the meaning of life and existence, and the mystery of human consciousness.

In August 2008, Prof. R. C. Tampi, was appointed Director of the School of the Wisdom, and Dr S. Siddhartha, the Secretary of the School. Prof. R. C. Tampi, who is a retired professor of English, a National Lecturer of the Indian Section, and the President of the Kerala Theosophical Federation, was also the Director of Studies for the November session. His subject was *Theosophy — Exponents and Exposition*. He reiterated that Theosophy is the Divine Wisdom, which was taught and practised by a few elect, ever since man became a thinking being. Many expounded this Wisdom over the years. The underlying unity in these different expositions through the ages was studied systematically from the ancient Vedas,

right through to the twentieth century. In the afternoon sessions, there were presentations by a few of the participants — Terrance Rendell, Tom Dede, Breda Zagar and Maria Widjaja.

The subject of the December session was *The Mahatmas on Theosophy and the TS*. The Director of Studies was Bro. Pedro Oliveira, former International Secretary of the Theosophical Society, and the Education Coordinator of the Australian Section. Based on the *Letters from the Masters of the Wisdom* and *The Mahatma Letters to A.P. Sinnett*, the class explored the core statements from the inner Founders of the TS and their enduring vision of a regenerating practical Brotherhood. In an afternoon session, Dr A. Kannan, a long-standing member residing in the Campus, spoke on *Theosophy and Modern Science*. Two other sessions were devoted to the screening of the films *About the River* and *The River*. Visits to the Museum and Adyar Library were also included.

ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

During the year many queries were received from people all over the world; many requested information or quotes from private communications and copies of fragile documents. Searches for specific items are time-consuming and somewhat limited owing to the shortage of staff working in the Archives at present. However, items continue to be added to the catalogue database on a daily basis.

Considerable work in the preservation

of records by de-acidification and lamination needs to be undertaken as soon as possible and the air conditioning system needs upgrading as soon as possible, to provide the best environment.

The Museum was visited by many Convention delegates and also by students from the School of the Wisdom on several occasions.

Dr C.V. Agarwal
Officer-in-Charge

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

Olcott Memorial High School: The School reopened in June 2008 after the summer holidays with 555 pupils, 317 boys and 238 girls, including 46 new admissions. Sixty-two pupils sat for the final examination, 24 boys and 23 girls passed at the first attempt. The Government of Tamil Nadu, Department of School Education, felicitated the teaching staff with a certificate for increasing the percentage of passes from 63.77% to 75.81%.

The students were engaged in co-curricular activities such as gardening, gymnastics, scouting, sports, etc., and participated in inter-school competitions featuring sports events, drama, drawing and painting, and model construction projects.

Educational excursions were organized according to the educational level of the pupils. An annual health check-up was conducted and somewhat serious cases were referred to specialists.

HPB Hostel: Fifteen pupils returned to the Hostel in June and were joined by five new boys making a total of twenty residents. Their day begins with prayers, followed by breakfast. When they return from school at 5 p.m., they enjoy a snack and play games. At 6 p.m. they assemble for prayers and meditation, followed by mythological and moral stories. Supper by 8 p.m., and the children complete their homework before going to bed.

Social Welfare Centre: The Nursery School reopened on 3 June 2008 with 91 children, 47 boys and 44 girls, between two and five years of age. Parents leave their children here from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. They receive a nutritious vegetarian breakfast and lunch and learn the Tamil, English and Hindi alphabets and numbers. They also enjoy singing songs and dancing, drawing and painting, and playing in the sand. Dr R. Revathy conducted clinics for the mothers and children. Two six-month tailoring courses were conducted and fifteen lady students received certificates on completing the course successfully. Handicraft work, including woven towels, bed sheets, petticoats, purses and bags are all produced and sold during the School of the Wisdom and International Convention.

Animal Welfare Centre: Dr P. D. Jagannathan and his team cared for 8,000 animals: minor operations were performed and 37 animals underwent Animal Birth Control operations. In-patients are fed three times daily, or when necessary, following the doctor's orders. Six outreach programmes were conducted in villages in coordination with the Head of the village Panchayat; 80 to 100 animals were treated and vaccinated.

Miss Sumana Kale
Secretary, Olcott Education Society

THE BESANT SCOUT CAMPING CENTRE

Twenty-three scout and children's groups, with around 1,600 participants, used the Besant Scout Camping Centre for their camping activities during the year. They gained valuable knowledge in the values

of the TS, to the greatest extent possible within their own programmes.

Mr A. Victor Frank
for Besant Scouting Centre

THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE

This year, the TOS celebrated the centenary of its founding in February 1908, with events around the Theosophical world and all kinds of commemorative publications: bulletins, bookmarks, cards, pens, etc. A centenary logo was produced by the TOS in Brazil and widely used on letterheads, posters, newsletters and on the T-shirts produced by the TOS in Chennai. A special edition of *The Service Link* was brought out. The TOS in the Philippines prepared a centennial banner and shipped a copy gratis to groups overseas, along with a large colour poster about the TOS's founder, Dr Annie Besant, and another one on its current operations. At the international TOS's request, it also produced and distributed worldwide in DVD form an outstanding illustrated lecture given by Vicente Hao Chin Jr entitled 'On root causes and symptoms'.

At and just before the international gathering held at Adyar, the President of the TOS in Chennai, Mr C.V.K. Maithreya and his wife Dr Sunita, organized a number of special events: a

lamp-lighting ceremony of rededication to the work, the donation of DLP projectors to the Olcott and Besant Schools and to the headquarters of the Theosophical Society, the projecting of a film '*Horizon of Hope*' reporting on the relief and rehabilitation work of the Chennai TOS, a celebratory lunch preceded by the donation of two wheelchairs to needy individuals, a session of free medical aid at the Social Welfare Centre and a jumble sale for the benefit of the underprivileged in collaboration with the members of the Order of the Round Table, also celebrating its centenary this year. During the International Convention preceding the TOS centenary gathering, members of one of the self-help groups established by the TOS in Chennai, ran a stall of eco-friendly products, which were very popular among the delegates. Acknowledgment is due to the TOS in the Philippines and the TOS in Chennai for their outstanding contributions to the centenary celebrations.

In preparation for the TOS's second century of work, time was devoted last

year to developing an international perspective on the TOS and to sharing perceptions of what might need to be done to help the TOS grow. After further consultation with members around the world this year, a plan of action was developed to guide the work of the International TOS during the next five years. It will periodically be reviewed and amended during its lifespan. The work will be carried out by international teams of volunteers. It has already started, in fact, an international website was

designed by Geoffrey and Carolyn Harrod of Australia.

The TOS is happy to be moving into its second century of work with renewed energy and clarity of purpose. It acknowledges the professional skills of another of its Australian volunteers, Dorothy Bell, in guiding the members through all levels of the organizational review process they have been engaged in.

Diana Dunningham Chapotin
International Secretary, TOS

**REPORTS OF WORK
IN
NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS
REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES
LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR
FEDERATIONS**

(Where necessary, reports have been translated, edited or condensed)

NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND SECTIONS

AFRICA, EAST AND CENTRAL

Nairobi Lodge in Kenya, Dar-es-Salaam Lodge in Tanzania, and Kitwe Lodge in Zambia, are among the most active Lodges in the East and Central African Section. They all celebrated the important days of the Theosophical Society's year.

Nairobi Lodge conducted book studies on *Theosophy Explained in Questions and Answers* by P. Pavri and *Old Diary Leaves*. Talks were given in English on various subjects including Peace, Service, Creation, Paramahansa Yogananda and *The Voice of the Silence*. A session was also included on *Laughter is the Best Medicine*, as part of creating lighter moments from the normal 'serious' subjects.

Talks were given in Gujarati meetings, on Rani Rasmani, Justice, Regeneration, Contemplation, and the 'Role of Youth'. New speakers were encouraged to present

talks by having two or three speakers presenting their own personal choice of subjects.

A Youth Seminar was conducted on *Capacity Building* in Education, Sports, Service and Rightful Living, with students of high schools and colleges. Another seminar on *Ethics in Professions and Life in General* was also offered.

Dar-es-Salaam Lodge made an in-depth book study of varied Theosophical literature, and Kitwe Lodge studied *Reincarnation* and *The Real Work of the T. S.* Other Lodges have reduced their activities due to their falling membership.

The Section Bookstall, housed at Nairobi Lodge, has a rich collection of titles on sale for members and sympathizers. The bookstall regularly adds new titles from Adyar TPH.

Mr Navin P. Shah
General Secretary

AFRICA, SOUTH

A new Lodge was chartered this year in Germiston, near Johannesburg. It is the first Lodge in fifty-eight years to be chartered. The previously chartered Lodge was in Harare in 1950. The Section is actively supporting the Lodge with

study groups and lectures. Regular study groups on the *Bhagavad-Gita*, *The Voice of the Silence* and interactive discussions continue to be popular at the various Lodges. *Basic Theosophy* by Geoffrey Hodson and a locally produced

Theosophical study course are used as study guides. The Convention theme was 'Change Yourself and Move Mountains'. Speakers from Johannesburg have flown to Cape Town to give talks and strengthen the Lodge there. Durban Lodge has been

revived and saved from possible closure. Articles for *The South African Theosophist* magazine are contributed entirely by members of the Section.

Mrs Susan Kaschula
General Secretary

AFRICA, WEST

Membership of the Section continues to cover the English-speaking countries of Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon and Liberia. Lodges and Study Centres continued to hold weekly meetings. Some of the books studied were *Theosophy as the Masters See It*, *The Key to Theosophy*, *At the Feet of the Master*, *Light on the Path*, and others. Those who visited the Headquarters were attracted by the sign board in front of 'Theosophy House'. Among them were two journalists who interviewed the General Secretary about the aim and objects of the Society. The result was an

article published in the newspaper *The Moment* in August 2008 on 'What is Theosophy'. *The Theosophist* magazine was distributed to libraries of several institutions in Ghana and Nigeria. In Ghana those institutions included the Parliament, the Ghana Law School, some Universities and the Police Training School. The Section's Council approved the free distribution of *At the Feet of the Master* in Twi, the Ghanaian language, to people who do not know English.

Mr Paul B. Kwakyi
General Secretary

ARGENTINA AND PARAGUAY

The Section held its 44th summer school from 19 to 26 January. The guest speaker was Mrs Nelda Samarel, Director of the Krotona School of Theosophy, Ojai, California. She conducted two workshops: 'Therapeutic Touch: Healing Based on Theosophy and Science' and 'Workers' Training Course'.

Another event organized by the Section was Living Theosophy, 28 January to 2 February, in which members from

Chile also took part. The theme was 'An Approach to the Svetasvatara Upanishad'. The Winter School was held from 13 to 19 July on the theme 'Let us Investigate our Intellect', with Mr Juan Carlos Palmeri as facilitator. A special programme was organized at the National Headquarters in Buenos Aires in October 2007 to pay homage to Henry Steel Olcott, which highlighted his activities as a Theosophist, lawyer, farmer, journalist and educator.

With the help of a number of members the Section continues to bring about a Spanish translation of *The Theosophist*. It is published on the website of the TS in Argentina. Membership of the Section is now 333. Publishing activity continues and the Spanish edition of Joy Mills' book *From Inner to Outer Transformation* was recently brought out together with *At the Feet of the Master*, in Spanish. A revised edition of *The Theosophical Glossary* will be published soon.

The San Rafael Theosophical Centre saw the addition of a fourth wing which was inaugurated during the year under

review. This new building will be dedicated to meditation and study activities. New rules for the operation of the Centre were also approved. The Centre is now looking for more residents.

The General Secretary, Mrs Silvia Pastore, visited the city of Asunción, Paraguay, in September, and renewed the contact with the members of the Lodge Fraternidad. The Section also participated in the Inter-American Theosophical Congress in Wheaton, USA, in September 2008.

Mrs Silvia Pastore
General Secretary

AUSTRALIA

A new project was implemented which will enable many TS libraries to have their holdings listed in an online electronic catalogue. The Section funded the establishing of a new prize to La Trobe University for studies in the perennial philosophy. The book *Buddhist Meditation* by Samdhong Rinpoche was sent as a gift to all 1312 members in Australia. Hugh Shearman's book *A Guide to Work in the Theosophical Society* was sent to committee members of all Lodges and Certified Groups in the Section. The Campbell Library at the Headquarters offers two important on-line services for students of Theosophy: *Union Index of Theosophical Periodicals* and *Links to Theosophical Texts Online*. Dr Jenny McFarlane, obtained a PhD degree

from the Australian National University with her thesis entitled *A Visionary Space—Theosophy and an alternative modernism in Australia 1890-1934*, which explores the influence of Theosophy on a number of artists in Australia from late 19th century to the first half of the 20th century. She kindly donated a copy of her thesis to the Library.

The School of Theosophy, which was held in April, had as its theme 'Occult Science — Principles and Applications' and was led by Dr Edi Bilimoria. His dynamic and comprehensive classes were very well received. TS publicity leaflets were sent to the University of Queensland for use in a course. Copies of the leaflet 'Release into Light—Meditations for Those Who Mourn' were sent to the

Cancer Support Association, WA, upon request. A new booklet, 'Theosophy and the Zeitgeist' by Dr John Algeo, was published for wide distribution. The Section has a policy to make an

appropriate annual donation towards the work of the International Headquarters at Adyar.

Mrs Linda Oliveira
National President

BELGIUM

Members in good standing are now 89. There are three Lodges in Brussels. The Lodge in Liège suffers from the lack of interest on the part of most of its members in study of Theosophy. The Lodge in Gent has lost more members than those it has gained. Only the fifth Lodge in the province, the new White Lotus Lodge in Antwerp, has been flourishing, with several new members very active in the

study of Theosophy and in the organization of public lectures. It also has the participation of some professors of the faculty of comparative study of religions of the University in Antwerp. Mr. Jan Jelle Keppler has been elected as the new General Secretary.

Dr H. Van der Hecht
General Secretary

BRAZIL

Membership stands now at 776, showing a decrease of 38 members. The Section has thirty-five Lodges and fourteen Study Groups. The Section's website has proved to be an effective means for the dissemination of Theosophy. The quarterly magazine *TheoSophia* is sent to every member in the country. The annual summer school was held in Florianopolis with the theme 'Theosophy as the Masters See It'. Linda and Pedro Oliveira were the guest speakers for the International Theosophical School held in July 2008 at the Theosophical Institute of Brasilia. Ulisses Resende, former General Secretary, is also the

president of Planetary Union, whose TV channel broadcasts a number of Theosophical talks on a regular basis. Some of the books published by The Theosophical Publishing House during the year include *The Hidden Wisdom in the Holy Bible* by Geoffrey Hodson, *Theosophy as the Masters See It* by Clara M. Codd, *Raja Yoga – A Simplified and Practical Course* by Wallace Slater. The Section also publishes an attractive magazine, *Sophia*, for national distribution.

Mr Marcos Luis B. Resende
General Secretary

COLOMBIA

There are two Lodges in Medellín: Mountain and Light Lodges. Regular Theosophical studies are being conducted in both Lodges. Mr Gaspar Torres, former General Secretary of the TS in Cuba, visited Medellín together with the General Secretary in November 2008, when he addressed both the public and the members. Mrs Isis Resende, from Brazil, visited Bogota and Medellín in October 2008 as part of a lecture tour. In Bogotá there are four Lodges: Blavatsky, Spinosa,

Rainbow and Maitreya. Regular study activities are conducted in all of them. All Theosophical anniversaries were observed with proper meetings organized for each of them. The magazine *Selección Teosófica* continues to be published regularly. The Section has now also a website. Members in Colombia also support the TOS and the Order of the Round Table.

Mrs Juliá Martínez Ballesteros
General Secretary

CUBA

(No report)

ENGLAND

Over the past twelve months the English Section has seen some very positive initiatives taking shape. Several Lodges have experienced a notable rise in interest from the public and this has resulted in new memberships for many Lodges and an injection of enthusiasm across the Section.

Of particular note is the case of Bournemouth Lodge, which was all but closed, having been reduced to only 2 or 3 members. New people started to enquire about Theosophy and soon offered to help in reviving interest. After just about twelve months' of work by all concerned, and a new image including a great looking website, the number of members of

Bournemouth Lodge now stands at forty-seven. This, by any standards, is extremely encouraging and says much about how we present our Society to the general public. The principle inspirer of this project (not forgetting the several others who put in so much hard work) was Barry Seabourne, a retired art and design lecturer. Barry has now taken the position of 'Director of Arts and Communications' for the Section.

Many new and exciting projects are underway across the Section, including the rebuilding of our national website, a monthly e-news letter going out across the globe, and a new Officers and Members day planned for the spring,

which will give a wonderful opportunity to members from across the Section to come together to discuss the future of the Society and of Theosophy in these new and interesting times.

The National Headquarters has undergone substantial and long overdue redecorations and refurbishment, while the Section's Spiritual Centre, Tekels Park, is in the throes of a radical change of identity and operating set up. If successful,

these changes will result in a new venue for spiritual activities at the Park in place of the ailing 'Guest House'.

All in all, this has been a very encouraging year, with many more members taking an active role in revitalizing the Section, its Headquarters, and many of its Lodges.

Mr Eric McGough
General Secretary

FINLAND

The Summer School, with the theme of 'Sources of Wisdom', was held at Kreivila, the summer centre of the Finnish Section. The EFTS Chairman, Ms Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu, was the guest speaker. Her series of lectures, 'Modernity of the Ancient Wisdom', was based on Mahayana Buddhism and Jiddu Krishnamurti's teachings.

A one-day seminar for Lodge chairmen and workers was held at the headquarters in Helsinki. The theme 'Service' was viewed in three perspectives: science, art and service. In the group work, a method of 'learning cafe' was used, to get an insight into how service reflects in these three areas. White Lotus Day, Foundation Day and Adyar Day were celebrated at the headquarters and in the Lodges.

A photographic exhibition of '100 years of TS in Finland' was shown in both South and East Finland. The Finnish Section took part in the 'Spirit and

Knowledge' fair in October and the 'I am' fair in February in Helsinki. The TS had a table for information and selling Theosophical books and a classroom for hourly presentations and discussions about subjects like 'Experience and deep-experience', 'On the stairs of spiritual life', 'Meaning of consciousness in interaction' and 'Differences of human beings and Theosophy'. In the North of Finland the Oulu Lodge was represented in a similar fair called 'Spiritual Growth' and in Estonia the HPB Lodge was represented in the 'Mother Earth' fair. The fairs attract 1000-3000 visitors daily.

Lodge work was based on talks by members, discussions, and studying Theosophical literature such as: *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Key to Theosophy*, *The Mahatma Letters*, *Leadbeater's Masters and the Path*, I. K. Taimni's *The Science of Yoga*, Nicholson's *Ancient Wisdom — Modern Insight*. Aurinko Lodge in Northern Finland arranged two summer

weekends, one with the theme 'Path to Truth', and the other with a Tibetan monk, Geshe Pema Dorjee, whose subject was 'Three jewels'. HBP Lodge in Estonia arranged a Summer School with the theme

'Inner balance', with guest speaker Mr Halldor Haraldsson from Iceland.

Ms Marja Artamaa
General Secretary

FRANCE

The theme of the annual Convention was "Faith: Theosophical Perspectives". During the Convention Mrs Danielle Audoin read the translation of the lecture by Ven. Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche at the European Congress in Helsinki in July 2007. His subject was 'On Religious Harmony: The Need of the Twenty-first Century'.

The Summer School of the Latin Countries was held in the International Theosophical Centre of Naarden. It was attended by members from Belgium, France, Italy and Switzerland and Ireland. The theme was "Life after Death in the Ancient Traditions and in Theosophy". The speakers were Dr Robert Ellwood

and Mrs Gracia Fay Ellwood from the United States.

The Beaubourg Museum of the Pompidou Centre in Paris requested to borrow the first French edition of C. W. Leadbeater's *Man Visible and Invisible* and Annie Besant's and C. W. Leadbeater's *Thought Forms* for an exhibition called 'Traces du Sacré' (Signs of the Sacred). The color plates included in these works were duly photographed and exhibited next to their respective books. This itinerant exhibition has now opened in the Haus des Kunst in Munich, Germany.

Mrs Nano Leguay
General Secretary

GERMANY

Lodges in Germany continue to meet on a regular basis. Elisabeth Schmidt, former General Secretary, visited Lodges and gave talks as she used to do regularly. The weekend meetings in the north of Germany continue to be held once in spring and once in autumn. The annual summer school was again held in Lippstadt, 10-16 July 2008. The theme

was 'Joy – Divine Spark'. The Section's magazine, *Adyar*, continues to be published three times a year. It is produced by a dedicated group of members led by Elisabeth Schmidt. The magazine is also distributed to some Swiss and Austrian interested people.

Ms Manuela Kaulich
General Secretary

GREECE

In 2008 Mr. Theodore Katsifis was elected the new General Secretary. Membership of the Section increased approximately 150%. Four new lodges were founded: *Ammonius Saccas*, *Athena*, *Orpheus* and *Epicurus*. The Headquarters of the TS underwent extensive renovation. We have also created a study room with computer and Internet available to members. The book *Occultism and Yoga* by

H. P. Blavatsky, compiled by Erica Georgiades and Efigenia Kastamonide, was published by the Section. Other books recently published in Greek include *The Seven Rays*, *Invisible Helpers*, *To Those who Mourn*, *Practical Occultism* and *The Voice of the Silence*.

Mr Theodore Katsifis
General Secretary

ICELAND

There are now seven active Lodges in Reykjavik and two outside the capital – one in Akureyri and one in Kópavogur. Public talks take place on Friday evenings at the headquarters building, and Saturday ‘Open House’ meetings are held in the afternoon in the library. The average attendance at public talks is around fifty. The ‘Open House’ meetings have been becoming increasingly popular. A Sunday meditation meeting is also held regularly.

The Section journal *Gangleri* has been

published bi-annually since 1926. It now has over 700 subscribers. The Section’s publishing house published several books last year. A newsletter is also published which is distributed around the Theosophical world. The General Secretary was the guest speaker at the summer seminar in Estonia in July. Approximately sixty participants attended the seminar.

Mr Halldór Haraldsson
General Secretary

INDIA

The membership of the Section stands at 12,418, which represents a decrease of 26 in relation to the figures of last year. The 160th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Annie Besant was celebrated on 1 October 2007. Prof. Surendra Singh Kushwaha, Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi

Vidyapeeth, graced the function as Chief Guest. The General Secretary, Indian Section, and Dr. Bhanu Shankar Mehta, a distinguished citizen of Varanasi, spoke on this occasion. Mrs. Manju Sundaram recited a poem on Dr. Annie Besant which was composed in 1916 by Pandit Brij

Narayan 'Chakbast'. Prof. R.C.Tampi, National Lecturer and President, Kerala Theosophical Federation, delivered a talk on the occasion of Adyar Day. He explained the significant contribution of Giordano Bruno and the common characteristics of Bruno, Col. H.S.Olcott and C.W.Leadbeater.

Kashi Tattva Sabha, Theosophical Lodge at the Section Headquarters, organized twenty public lectures during the year under review, including a symposium on 'Women's contribution in the Freedom Struggle of India' on 8 August. On the occasion of 60th Jubilee Year of the Indo-Swiss Friendship Treaty, the Embassy of Switzerland, New Delhi, presented Galatea String Quartet, at the Section Headquarters on 18 February 2008. A number of Study Camps were held during the year. The North India Study Camp was organized at the Section Headquarters from 14 to 18 October 2007. Books for study were *Human Regeneration* by N. Sri Ram, *Way of Self-Knowledge* by Radha Burnier and *Letters from the Masters of the Wisdom*, with Dr A. Kannan, National Lecturer, as director.

A study camp on J. Krishnamurti's book *Freedom from the Known* was held at the Section Headquarters, Varanasi, from 26 to 29 March, 2008. It was conducted by Mrs Radha Burnier, International President, and Prof. P.

Krishna, Secretary, Krishnamurti Foundation India, Varanasi. Mrs Burnier and Dr Krishna held a dialogue on 'Krishnamurti and Theosophy'. The Study Camp at Bhowali was held from 19 May to 6 June 2008 with Dr N.C. Ramanujachary as director. The theme was 'Incisive Philosophy of Sri N. Sri Ram'. The 85th South India Theosophical Conference was held at the International Headquarters, Adyar from 21-23 March 2008 on the theme 'Unfoldment of the Inner Nature'. The director was Prof. R. C. Tampi. Approximately 150 delegates from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra participated.

Mrs Radha Burnier, International President, delivered the inaugural address on the occasion of the 96th Annual Conference of Rayalaseema Theosophical Federation in Bellary on 8 February. Her talks' titles included 'Work that Everyone Can Do' and 'The Deeper Truth We Need.' She was the chief guest of 125th Anniversary of Anantha Theosophical Lodge, Trivandrum. Prof. Ravi Ravindra, a retired Professor of Comparative Religion and Physics, delivered a talk at the Section Headquarters on 8 January on 'Spiritual Search : East and West'.

Mr S. Sundaram
General Secretary

INDONESIA

There was an increase of three members during the year. With permission from the TPH Adyar *The Etheric Double* by A. E. Powell has been published for sale within Indonesia only. The East Java area organized two Study Camps in Batu, a mountain resort near Malang, in October 2007 and March 2008. The focus

was on the Seven Manuals of Theosophy. The Annual Convention was held on 17–19 May 2008 in the Sala Lodge in Surakarta. During the Convention a seminar was held on the subject 'Unity of a Lodge among Diversity of Members'.

Dr Soepangat Sumarto
National President

ITALY

The Section, which has 1077 members at the present, is experiencing continuous growth, with a wealth of initiatives and a considerable number of contacts with scholars, researchers and persons who are getting acquainted with the theosophical view for the first time. A large headquarters for the Section was established in Vicenza, which is also capable of hosting our publishing house. During this year the project *On line Theosophical Libraries* has been consolidated. The following books have been published: *Il Buddismo Esoterico* by A. P. Sinnett, *Il Potere del Pensiero* by Annie Besant; *Unità della Vita* (Theosophical Writings) by Antonio Girardi; *L'Oceano della Teosofia* by W. Q. Judge and *Sogni* by C. W. Leadbeater.

On 14–16 March 2008 at Ascona more than seventy members took part in the seminar organized by the Italian Theosophical Society in collaboration with the European Federation of the TS. The theme was: 'Faith – Theosophical Perspectives'. The National Congress, whose subject was 'Psyche and Spirituality', was held at Castrocara Terme from 30 May to 1 June. The Section supports the publication of theosophical literature for Eastern countries and also the Olcott School in India, the educational activity of the Theosophical Order of Service in Pakistan, as well as other initiatives.

Mr Antonio Girardi
General Secretary

MEXICO

During 2008 the Section organized a series of nineteen weekly public lectures on the subject 'What is the Invisible in Theosophy' on all Fridays from March to August. A new course was also started at the national headquarters on 'Myself and Theosophy' led by Lissette Arroyo,

former General Secretary. The Autumn School of Theosophy was conducted by Dr Hugo G. Figueroa on 29-30 November on the theme 'The Pilgrim in the Eternity'.

Dr Hugo Figueroa S. Mosqueda
General Secretary

THE NETHERLANDS

This was a difficult year for the Section. Two members were expelled in September 2007. They appealed to the International President, who upheld the decision of the Dutch Section. A proposal was made for the regular members' meeting to have three working groups, one to consider changes in the rules, a financial group to make proposals on how to overcome financial difficulties and a study of group performance and communication meant to promote the Society and to increase our membership.

The number of people coming to the research in the library at the headquarters

is growing. Membership stands at 398, with 9 Lodges and 7 Study Centres. There is a combined activities group for the International Theosophical Centre in Naarden and the Section. The publishing house is working on a reprint of *Man Visible and Invisible* by C. W. Leadbeater. Regular study of Theosophical books as well as classics of world spirituality is carried on by many Lodges and Study Centres. We have good communication with Dutch-speaking Lodges in Belgium.

Mrs Wies Kuiper
General Secretary

NEW ZEALAND

The National Convention was held in Auckland in January. It commemorated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the passing of Geoffrey Hodson. The theme was 'To Inspire and Nurture – Exploring the Work of Geoffrey Hodson'. The School of Theosophy this year was held at the Tauhara Centre on the subject 'Our

Environment and the Effect it has on Spiritual Development'.

New study material has been supplied to all branches for use with study groups within the Branches. Branch programmes are important and a balanced programme of Service, Meditation and Study is promoted by the Section. Study in

branches continues to be variable, some branches being able to only hold public meetings. This means that there is no opportunity for members to explore in depth theosophical subjects, something that is important if we are to really gain a depth of understanding in Theosophy. Membership has decreased again and is

now 899. The new Charities Act is now in force. Thanks to the great effort put in last year by John Vorstermans the Society has been accepted as a group by the Charities Commission.

Mr Warwick Keys
National President

THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippine section commemorated its 75th anniversary with a programme last July 2008 at the National Headquarters of the TS. The Philippine section was chartered in July 1933, although Theosophy came to the Philippines as early as 1892. TPH Manila published *Sharing the Light*, a two-volume collection of all the known articles by Geoffrey Hodson.

The National Headquarters conducted a training workshop for lodge officers and leaders on August 2008, conducted by Vic Hao Chin, Jr. and Victor Peñaranda. The topics included among others 'The Core Mission of the TS, Self-Preparation of a Theosophical Worker, Organization of Lodges/Study Group Work, Planning Lodge Activity, The Theosophical Lecture and Lecturer and Preparing for and Moderating a Study Meeting'.

In March 2008, the Golden Link School confirmed the graduation of its first batch of high school students consisting of 10 members of the senior class. Simultaneously, 22 Grade 6 students also graduated in the elementary department. The School completed its sixth year of operation last March and has now applied

to open a college department by 2009. The courses to be offered are Bachelor of Secondary Education and Bachelor of Elementary Education.

The Godea Lodge of the TS in the Philippines was asked to help the victims of the war, especially the evacuees of the battle-torn areas of Mindanao. Workers from the National Headquarters were sent to Lanao del Norte and Cagayan de Oro to help train volunteers in the trauma processing based on the Self-Transformation Process. The Philippine TOS commemorated the 100th anniversary of the international TOS on 26 October 2008. A video on the TOS in the world and in the Philippines was presented.

The TS was invited to conduct the Self-Transformation Seminar to officials of the Sangguniang Kabataan (Youth Council) of the province of Bohol as well as the City of Naga. The National President conducted both seminars in May and August 2008. The TS in the Philippines had two foreign visiting lecturers during the period, Carol Ward of USA and Gerard Brennan of Australia. Romeo Velarde, a long-time member

and worker of the Philippine Section, passed away in February 2008. He travelled extensively in the Philippines

visiting many theosophical groups.

Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr
General Secretary

PORTUGAL

Lodges have been studying Theosophical works such as *The Key to Theosophy*, *Isis Unveiled* and *Self-Culture* by I. K. Taimni. Another Lodge is focusing on the study of a basic course on Theosophy. This year the theme of the 'Jornadas' was Inner Transformation. Last

June the two Lodges in Porto inaugurated their new premises. Some members from Lisbon were present and a talk was given on that occasion.

Mr Lício Correia
General Secretary

SPAIN

Theosophical study continued in all the Lodges. The Iberian gathering took place in El Escorial, 20-23 March on the theme 'Search for the Path by Going Within'. It was attended by sixty-seven persons, including some from Portugal. The summer school in Sant Feliu Guixols had as its theme 'Walking Together towards the Goal of Human Perfection'. The total attendance was 130 and the gathering

was a really harmonious one. The Theosophical Publishing House published the following books during the year: *A Study in Consciousness*, *Dharma* and *The Laws of Higher Life*, all by Annie Besant, and *Beyond the Physical Death* by Isaac Jauli and Enrique Reig.

Ms Clarisa Elosegui
General Secretary

SWEDEN

The Section has 162 members. Lodges and study groups continued with their study activities. Subjects included, among others, Self-culture, Meditation and Dialogue, *The Secret Doctrine* and *Yoga-sutras of Patañjali*. An open discussion group on Fundamentals of Esoteric Philosophy was started in Stockholm. There was also study of Introduction to

Theosophy by John Algeo. In the autumn of 2007 a new activity, 'Open House', was started. The summer school was held 14-18 July 2008 on the theme 'Meeting the Inner Reality'. The guest speaker was Marja Artamaa, General Secretary of the Finnish Section.

Mr Pertti Spets
General Secretary

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Membership has remained more or less the same as the last several years and is currently 3899. Many people have passed through our ranks and there is a fairly small but steady core of committed members. We serve those passing through as we work to draw more into the solid core. We view the difficulty of membership turnover as a challenge to be more creative in our approach to teaching and serving the groups and national members.

Programmes of study included, among others, *Introductory Study Course on Theosophy* by John Algeo, *The Bhagavad Gita*, *The Key to Theosophy*, *The Secret Doctrine* and *The Mahatma Letters*. Among the National Lodge papers which were sent out are *The Secret Gateway* by Ed Abdill, *Elementary Theosophy* by L. W. Rogers, *The Divine Plan* by Geoffrey Barborka and *The Spiritual Life* by Annie Besant. The Department of Education, headed by David Bruce, revised two booklets originally written by Joy Mills, *Manual for Group Discussion* and *Manual on Workshop Methods*. A prison study group consisting of thirty-three inmates is being supported with study course material supplied by David Bruce. New titles published by the Theosophical Publishing House included *The Light of Russian Soul* by E. F. Pisareva, *The One True Adventure* by Joy Mills and

On the Wings of Shekhinah by Rabbi Leah Novick.

Public programmes included *The Gandhi You May Not Know* by Rajmohan Gandhi, *Harry Potter and the Hero with a Thousand Faces* by John Algeo and *Remembrance and Blessing* by Tim Boyd. The 2008 *Theosofest* attracted 1133 people, 17 of whom decided to join the TS. Presentations included *Our Thirst for Meaning* by Tim Boyd, *The Chakras and Kundalini Revealed* by Ruben Cabigting and *Loving-Kindness Meditation* by (Bhikkhuni) Vimala.

The Audio-Video Department converted over 150 Theosophical lectures into MP3 files that can be downloaded at no charge. Among the new audio CDs are *War and the Soul* by Ed Tick and Olcott and Blavatsky, *Theosophical Twins* by John Algeo. The Summer National Gathering had as speakers Amit and Uma Goswami, Ravi Ravindra, John Algeo and Joy Mills. It was followed by a Congress of the Inter-American Theosophical Federation.

The E-newsletter, MP3 downloadable programmes, e-learning, webcasting, our increasing presence on the web via The Theosophical Community, online texts and other services have begun to give us greater visibility and more appeal to the younger generation.

Mrs Betty Bland
National President

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

AMERICA, CENTRAL

There are thirty-one members in Central America. The first Theosophical Convention in Central America took place in San Salvador, El Salvador, in 2008, organized by the Inter-American Theosophical Federation with the participation of a number of countries. The first Theosophical newsletter in the area,

Xolotlan, was issued. A basic as well as an intermediate course on Theosophy were offered. One of the stalwarts of TS work in Guatemala, Mrs. Carmen Aguilar Alvarez, passed away during the year.

Aura Elena Pozas de Martinez
Organizing Secretary

AUSTRIA

(No report)

CANADA

George Duguay, former National Treasurer and Webmaster, passed away. There are approximately 200 members in the Canadian Theosophical Association and about half of them is unattached to a Lodge or study centre. We welcome as friends people of goodwill from all Theosophical traditions, who embrace the principle of universal brotherhood in their lives. Our Website has not been functioning at full capacity since George Duguay's death in January 2008, and that it will take some time before it will be redesigned. A mini summer school workshop was conducted by Martin Leiderman at the National Convention in August 2008 on 'Esoteric Teaching Found in the Secret

Doctrine'. The magazine *The Light Bearer* is published twice a year.

The most important part of our international work has to do with our direct connection with Adyar, which is our parent organization and the headquarters for the International TS. Adyar serves as both our governing and spiritual centre. From Adyar we receive direction and support. Regretfully, this year we were unable to participate in the international elections due to all the upheavals we were going through at the national level. Adyar was most understanding and made allowances for our situation.

Ms Lorraine Christensen
President

CHILE

Membership stands at 33. The theme of the annual convention held in May 2008 was 'To Find the Path'. All traditional Theosophical anniversaries were observed. The Section participated, together with the local TOS, in a fair which promoted sustainable environment and reverence for Nature. The event had good attendance. Visiting speakers during the year included Mrs Nelda Samarel, Director of the Krotona School of Theosophy, and Mrs Silvia Pastore, General Secretary of the TS in Argentina.

Chilean members attended gatherings at the San Rafael centre in Argentina. Arundhati Lodge commemorated its 106 years of existence. Regular Theosophical study goes on in all the three Lodges in Chile. The Section publishes a magazine, *Revista Teosofica Chilena*, regularly and is sent also to some universities. Advertisements of TS programmes are also placed on several radio stations.

Miss Ana Gloria Bustos
Organizing Secretary

IRELAND

Regular weekly meetings took place during the year in Limerick and Belfast Lodges. Limerick Lodge also held a monthly TOS Healing Service. Members of Belfast Lodge, at a short notice, have had to find another room for their weekly TS meetings. Each member of the Coleraine, Dublin and Newry Study Groups received a gift of a number of new TS books for study. The programme of activities is now featured in the new TS in Ireland website. Every member in Ireland receives bi-monthly study notes and an accompanying letter from the

Organizing Secretary. The All Ireland Convention was held in Dublin at the end of May. The guest speaker was Mrs Ali Ritsema who delivered a much appreciated talk on 'Seeing Through Our Heart.' It is heartening to see that since the formation of the All Ireland Regional Association in June 2005 the peace, harmony and cooperation experienced between Irish Theosophists is also reflected in the political scene here.

Mrs Marie Harkness
Organizing Secretary

IVORY COAST

The political crisis which started in 1999 continues to affect the work of the TS in this country and only essential

activities have been carried out. We managed to have our weekly meetings on Sunday mornings when we studied

The Key to Theosophy. The majority of the members and sympathizers are young people. Monthly lectures dealt with the Theosophical view on God, life, death, karma, reincarnation, evolution and self-

realization. Exploring such themes has helped us to bear the crisis we are facing.

Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh
Organizing Secretary

NORWAY

A newsletter is sent out every month to members with translation into Norwegian of the President's *On the Watch-Tower* notes, thus keeping us in touch with her, with Adyar and with TS events at home and abroad. In May 2008 we had a most successful seminar with Professor P. Krishna. In November 2008 we watched the DVD of Radha Burnier's talk at the Congress in Finland.

Publication of Theosophical books in Norwegian, with the help of the Non-English Publications Fund, is being considered. The Norwegian edition of Radha Burnier's *Human Regeneration* has been well received. Work has also started to set up a new web site.

Mrs Agnes Gaasemyr
Organizing Secretary

SCOTLAND

The Annual Convention was held in Glasgow and all Lodges were represented. Although membership in Scotland is not high (about 100 members at the present) there are new members joining each of the Lodges and showing new interest. The Theosophical magazine

Circles was issued again in the Spring. It is hoped to make it more accessible for people through our new website which is also attracting new enquirers.

Mr Stuart Trotter
Organizing Secretary

SLOVENIA

There are 71 members and four Lodges in Slovenia. Theosophical study, which is carried out in all the Lodges, included the following books: *Doctrine of the Heart* by Annie Besant, *Creative Silence* by Rohit Mehta, *God, Man and the Universe* by I. K. Taimni and

The Living Truth by Radha Burnier. There were two well-attended gatherings of all Lodges, one in Ljubljana and the other in Maribor. There was one mini-school in Celje, a winter school in Sonèek, in February 2008, on the theme 'Theosophy and Modern Times', attended by forty

members. The summer school in Pliskovica, in June 2008, had as its theme 'No Other Path to Go', and attracted thirty members, including a few from Croatia.

The magazine *Theosophical Thought* is issued regularly.

Dr Dusan Zagar
Organizing Secretary

TOGO

(No report)

URUGUAY

There are five Lodges in Montevideo and 66 members. Lodges have centered their efforts in persevering in their Theosophical studies. The showing of some films, followed by discussion and dialogue, proved to be a viable alternative in the contact with the public as it created an opportunity to articulate Theosophical

ideas. A seminar on 'The Mysticism of the Mandukya Upanishad' was held. The TOS is also active in Uruguay and conducting some socially-oriented projects

Mr Nelson Corrales
Organizing Secretary

WALES

Representing Wales, the Organizing Secretary attended the 'All Ireland Convention' held in Dublin in June and the European Federation of National Societies Council Meeting in Naarden in July. Old acquaintances were renewed and new friends made with members from all over Europe.

The monthly talks offered to the public in North Wales have included 'The Life and Work of Annie Besant' by Janice Allen and 'Rudolf Steiner' by John Holden. Eric McGough is leading a study course on *The Secret Doctrine* for members once a month and enquirers are

encouraged to attend for a few sessions before they are offered membership.

Swansea Lodge in the South held monthly study meetings on Theosophy and meditation. Public talks were also held in Swansea once a month. In March this year all the members of Cardiff Lodge resigned from the Welsh Region. They are now calling themselves 'The Cardiff Theosophical Society' and are inviting the people of Cardiff to join their Society.

Ms Julie Cunningham
Organizing Secretary

PRESIDENTIAL AGENCIES

ASIA, SOUTH-EAST

Owing to unrest in some parts of the area, communication has been difficult and detailed reports from Lodges have not been received.

The Seramban Lodge in Malaysia, which has not been functioning for some time, has now been revived by five new members joining. The Selangor Lodge has also had an influx of ten new members and is functioning well with weekly study classes. Unfortunately, all attempts to revive the Penang Lodge have failed and at present it is considered dormant.

In Bangladesh there are five Lodges and one Study Centre; all of them have regular study classes. Olcott Lodge in Dhaka is the most active of these Lodges, and Comilla Lodge is the oldest Lodge

with the largest membership. However, no report has been received from the Comilla Lodge or the Siddhartha Study Centre.

Chittagong Lodge in Eastern Bangladesh is very active and had 38 study classes during the year. The Chittagong Lodge and the Besant Lodge are working together and planning to organize a meeting of all the Lodges in Bangladesh, with a view to coordinating the work in that country. The other two Lodges in the area also have regular meetings with study classes. A good number of members from Bangladesh are planning to attend the International Convention at Adyar this year.

Dr C. V. Agarwal
Presidential Representative

BOLIVIA

A national gathering was held in the city of San Benito, 26-27 April 2008, on the theme 'The Path to Discipleship'. It was attended by members of the four Lodges in Bolivia. Another national gathering took place on 2-3 August 2008 on the theme 'The Way to Adeptship'. Mrs Isis Resende, from Brazil, visited the

cities of Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and La Paz during June to July 2008. The Theosophical Society in Bolivia has become the legal owner of a flat in the city of La Paz to be used as headquarters of Lodge Paz.

Mrs Teresa W. de Nuñez
Presidential Representative

COSTA RICA

There are three Lodges and one Study Group in Costa Rica. An introductory course on Theosophy was conducted using Spanish translations of *Self-Culture* by I. K. Taimni, *Man Visible and Invisible* by C. W. Leadbeater, *Basic Course on Theosophy* by E. Simmons, *Human Regeneration* by Radha Burnier as well as parts of the Proem of *The Secret Doctrine*.

Mrs Ali Ritsema, from Belgium, conducted a seminar on Karma and Dharma on 3 October 2007. Mrs Nelda Samarel, from the United States, conducted

an introductory course on Theosophy in English during March and April 2008. Mrs Samarel also conducted a workshop on Therapeutic Touch in March 2008. A Winter School was held from August to October on *At the Feet of the Master*.

Permission was received from the government for the TS to build a Theosophical Centre in an area of 700 sq. metres. Many donations were received for this project.

Mrs Maria Orlich Soto
Presidential Agent

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

We have two Lodges and two Study Groups. Lodge Nueva Aurora studied three books during the period under report: *The Voice of the Silence, Through the Gates of Gold* by Mabel Collins and *Man and His Bodies* by Annie Besant. Lodge Atma studied *The Voice of the Silence, Inner and Outer Transformation* by Joy Mills and *Introduction to Esoteric Principles* by William Doss McDavid. The Presidential Representative visited both Lodges and gave talks. She also

organized a retreat in February 2008 on the subject 'The Path of Initiation' based on *The Mahatma Letters*. The study material for the retreat was prepared by Ms Ana Lorena Howell from Costa Rica and Miss Joy Mills from Ojai, USA. Many members attended this retreat which was held in the mountains in the Dominican Republic.

Mrs Magaly Polanco
Presidential Representative

HUNGARY

During the year one public lecture a month was organized with 25 to 50 participants attending. This series will continue throughout next year. The main subjects were the basic Theosophical principles of karma and reincarnation,

including the mental world, dreams, etc., compiled mostly from the series of books by A. E. Powell. Open meetings were held a few days after the actual public meetings, to meet interested new people and answer their questions about

the subjects that had been discussed. As these meetings seemed productive they will also be continued next year.

One of our members living about 200 km from Budapest, who has led a study group for the last seven years, has made new translations and helped in the correction of some earlier published writings for the new editions. It is intended to publish *The Mental Body* by A.E. Powell and a revised new edition of Gibran's *The Prophet*.

The Siddhartha Lodge held regular meetings once a month, starting and concluding with a group meditation. The sessions were based on the book *Theosophy, an Introductory Course* written by John Algeo. The method used was to translate the text into the Hungarian language and make it available to members, suggesting supplementary reading material written in Hungarian.

Several other books have also been translated into Hungarian, including *The Causal Body* by A. E. Powell, *The Idyll of the White Lotus* by Mabel Collins, *The Secret Doctrine Vol. III* by

H. P. Blavatsky, and *The Brotherhood of Angels and Men* by Geoffrey Hodson.

The Eastern Lodge held eight monthly meetings at Hajduszoboszlo and Debrecen on fixed topics, including *The Order of the Knights Templar*, HPB's 1888 thoughts on New Year and Annie Besant's *The Theosophical Life, Reincarnation and Karma*. Two public lectures were also given at Debrecen, on the subjects, *Harry Potter and the Alchemy of the Soul* and *Harry Potter's Secret Mission*.

The periodical magazine of the TS in Hungary continues to be published with translations of articles from *The Theosophist*, old theosophical writings, and articles from members. The President of the Eastern Lodge, Tom Dede, was invited to contribute to a live radio programme called *Together in Diversity*, analysing the possibility of dialogue between religions in the framework of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

Mr Thomas Martinovich
Presidential Representative

PAKISTAN

(No report)

PERU

There are twenty-nine members in Peru and two Lodges — HPB and Verdad. A Basic Course on Theosophy is offered to the public twice a year. Books studied by the two Lodges during

the year included *Genealogy of Man* by Annie Besant, *The Inner Life* and *Glimpses of Occultism* by C. W. Leadbeater and *Light on the Path* by Mabel Collins. Two study camps were held in San Bartolo,

near Lima. Spanish translations of 'On the Watch-Tower' from *The Theosophist*, originally published by the Spanish magazine *Sophia*, were distributed to members. The TOS continues to be active

and regularly donates medicines, clothes and shoes to an orphanage.

Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar
Presidential Representative

PUERTO RICO

There are three Lodges and one Study Group in Puerto Rico. Public lectures are held every Sunday morning. Books which are being studied include *The Science of Yoga* and *Man, God and the Universe* by I. K. Taimni and *The Causal Body and*

the Ego by Arthur Powell. One of the Lodges is conducting a study on Comparative Religions.

Dr Eladio Polanco
Presidential Representative

SRI LANKA

We conduct monthly meetings for members as well as for the public in which guest speakers deliver talks on spiritual matters. We publish monthly service letters and *The Sri Lankan Theosophist* was published in October 2008. A donation of 3000 copies of the Sinhala translation of Colonel Olcott's *Buddhist Catechism* was given to monastic schools, university libraries, Dhamma schools and other interested people. This publication was made available by a grant from the

Non-English Publications Fund at the International Headquarters. Sales of Theosophical books takes place at the TS Headquarters in Colombo. Hamsa Lodge in Badulla published its own magazine, *Sanathana Dhamma* containing articles on Theosophy and other spiritual matters. The Lodge is also conducting monthly meetings with discussions and meditations.

Mr S. M. Jayathilake
Presidential Representative

SWITZERLAND

We have 44 members and four active Lodges: Paix et Lumière, Harmonie, Gnosis and Exploration et Transformation. There are also four Study Groups, one of them in Suisse Allemande. We also offer an ongoing Course on

Theosophy conducted by Eliane Gaillard and Pierre Berner. It is expected that after the creation of a website more people will join the Society.

Mme Eliane Gaillard
Presidential Representative

VENEZUELA

On 27 and 28 September 2008 a workshop was held on each day on the theme 'Theosophy as a Process of Self-Healing'. Thirty-six people attended it. Regular Theosophical study is conducted by the two Lodges in Caracas. Blavatsky Lodge studied the books

The Power of Thought and *Karma* by Annie Besant. Fraternidad Lodge conducted a basic study course on Theosophy especially for the new members and studied the book *Karma*.

Mrs Nelly Nouell
Coordinator

LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

LOTUS LODGE (ZAGREB, CROATIA)

Members of the Lotus Lodge live in cities which are very far apart. Because of the difficulties created by distance, members have organized themselves into four study groups: Zagreb, Krizevci, Opatija and Osijek. Meetings have been held in Zagreb, Krizevci and Karlovac in which many Lodge members participated.

The largest study group, located in Zagreb, held two monthly meetings — one for candidates for membership and one for members only. There is also a public lecture which is given each Tuesday on subjects such as

'Theosophical Way of Living', 'How to Meditate', and 'Theosophy and Christianity'. Several books were also studied, including *The Etheric Double* by A. E. Powell, *At the Feet of the Master* by Alcyone, *Human Regeneration* by Radha Burnier and *The Solar System* by A. E. Powell.

The smallest group at Krizevci is continuing to work on the translation of the book *Human Regeneration* by Radha Burnier.

Mrs Marija Durda Bozic
President

EL SOL (GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR)

(No report)

COVENANT LODGE (TEL AVIV, ISRAEL)

Meetings for members were held on a weekly basis where several books were studied including *Concentration* by Ernest Wood and the extracts from the Mahatma Letters given in Katherine Beechey's book *Daily Meditations*.

Two public meetings were held each month, one in a rented hall in Tel-Aviv

and the other at our Ramat-Gan centre. At the Tel-Aviv meetings lecturers from different spiritual backgrounds were invited to present their own views on the chosen subject, together with the Theosophical view. Some of the subjects presented in these meetings included 'The Search for the Sacred in the Sufi and

Hassidic Traditions and in Theosophy', 'The Spiritual Magic', 'Energy Fields, Thought and Healing', 'The Meeting Place of Science and Mysticism', 'The Light at the End of Thought', 'What can we Learn from our Emotions', and 'The Freedom to Be Yourself.'

In the meetings held at the Ramat-Gan centre, various theosophical subjects were presented including 'The Way and the Goal according to the Tao Te Ching', 'Looking for the Light Within', 'Nirvana, Paradise and Hell as States of Consciousness', 'Medicine, Love and Theosophy', 'Head Knowledge and Heart Wisdom', 'The Hidden Light, its Discovery and Strengthening', 'Making Peace between the Head and the Heart'.

Seminars for members and students of our courses have been held on a monthly basis, and two one-day conventions open to the public were held on the themes 'The Generous Spirit' and 'The Enlightenment of the Heart — Ways of Compassionate Action'. Four introductory courses on Theosophy were given and three courses dealing with the emotional nature of man, from both Theosophical and Buddhist perspectives, in dealing with harmful emotions. Ten five-session workshops were also offered to the public in order to bring more people in contact with Theosophy.

Mr Abraham Oron
President

NIPPON LODGE (TOKYO, JAPAN)

The Lodge held monthly study meetings throughout the year with an average attendance of fourteen people, in a friendly atmosphere and freedom of thought. Recent studies were based on texts such as the Japanese translation of H. P. Blavatsky's *Isis Unveiled* and *From the Caves and Jungles of Hindostan*.

The members investigated the details of H. P. Blavatsky's enormous research literature. The subjects of the meetings included tenets of the seven cosmic principles, H. P. Blavatsky's Theosophical synthesis of Indian philosophy, Platonic philosophy, the Christian religion, Jewish religion and Egyptian religion, as well as

her background of psychic phenomena and the deeper psychological meanings of occultism and religion. We also explored the significance of cultivating an understanding of the profound tenets of Theosophy in the study meetings.

The bimonthly magazine of the Nippon Lodge, *The Japanese Theosophist*, contained Japanese translations of selected passages of Annie Besant's *Thought Power*, C. W. Leadbeater's *Hidden Life in Freemasonry* and H. P. Blavatsky's *The Secret Doctrine* and *Theosophical Glossary*.

Mr Naotsugu Takahashi
President

SINGAPORE LODGE

Only two Theosophical courses were conducted this year, resulting in a smaller intake of new members compared to those years when three classes could be conducted. The number of new members joining is directly proportional to the number of courses run. Meditation courses for enquirers, giving them the fundamentals and philosophy of meditation, have been combined into the Theosophical courses as they share similar material. Meditation courses are always popular with enquirers and have attracted many people to the Society.

The Lodge was again unable to conduct any study classes this year owing to other commitments. It is hoped that a study class on *The Mahatma Letters*, which was greatly appreciated by members some years ago, will be repeated in the coming year.

Many talks and lectures on a variety of subjects were given throughout the year including 'Self-Culture in the Light of the Ancient Wisdom', 'The Nature of

Psychic Abilities', 'The Occult Hierarchy', 'Getting Acquainted with The Secret Doctrine', 'The Hidden Side of Things', 'Reincarnation — Fact or Fallacy?' and 'The Emblem of the Theosophical Society'. Several videos were also screened including 'HPB's Diagram of Meditation'.

Several talks were given by international visitors; Uma Shanker Pandey from India, spoke on 'Understanding Theosophy', Vicente Hao Chin, Jr, from the Philippines on 'The Theosophical Order of Service Worldwide', Dianne Kynaston from Australia, on 'The Price of Experience' and Tim Boyd from the United States, on 'The Four Minds.' Twenty-one members attended the Indo-Pacific Federation conference at Quezon City in November, and many members celebrated the 119th anniversary of the Singapore Lodge this year.

Mr Chong Sanne
President

ANKH LODGE (KIEV, UKRAINE)

There are more than fifty members and two lodges in Ukraine, one in Kiev and the other in Yalta. The following activities took place during the year: on 17–18 November 2007 a conference was held in Kiev on 'The Idea of Brotherhood in the Modern World'. About sixty people from different parts of Ukraine participated. On 8 May 2008 all groups participated in the celebration of White

Lotus Day. In Dnepropetrovsk an international conference was held on 30 May and 1 June 2008. About 100 people from Ukraine, Russia, Slovenia and Romania participated. A series of public lectures on the theme 'Basis of Theosophical Knowledge' were held in Kiev and Odessa.

Mrs Svitlana Gavrylenko
President

FEDERATIONS

EUROPEAN FEDERATION

(No Report)

INDO-PACIFIC THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

(No Report)

INTER-AMERICAN THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

The first All Central American Convention was held in San Salvador, El Salvador, in October 2007. The theme was *Expanding the Theosophical Family*. Forty members from Central America and other countries attended. Mrs Ali Ritsema, former General Secretary of the Dutch Section, was the guest speaker. As a result, the member-ship has increased in most of the Central American countries, and members are working with more enthusiasm in their Lodge activities.

The most important IATF activity in 2008 was the Inter-American Congress which took place in Wheaton, USA, in

September. Seventy-two participants from sixteen countries attended and the theme was *The Journey from Darkness to Light*.

In October 2007, Mrs Ali Ritsema visited Mexico, Costa Rica and El Salvador, and in each country delivered public lectures and talks for TS members, besides conducting a seminar. The Federation President, Mrs Terezinha Kind, visited Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador and USA. In August 2008 Mrs Kind attended the Canadian Theosophical Convention.

Mrs Terezinha Franca Kind
President

PAN-AFRICAN THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

This year has been one of difficulties in Africa, with ongoing political and economic disasters plaguing many regions: Darfur, Nigeria, Kenya, Chad, South Africa and a major humanitarian crisis in Zimbabwe. The three Sections of the Region have been struggling to keep their membership and survive in these trying times.

The Chairman and his wife travelled again to Durban Lodge to give talks to support the Section's drive to inject some life into a flagging Lodge. They also visited Cape Town to attend the Section's

Convention and present a report on the activities of the Federation.

The Chairman visited Adyar in December 2007 and was able to meet the international Secretary, several General Secretaries and also the Assistant General Secretaries of the West African Section and the East and Central African Section with whom he had detailed discussions. The Federation Newsletters were distributed widely around the Theosophical world.

Mr Tom Davis
Chairman

**DIRECTORY
AND
MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
GENERAL COUNCIL**

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY

Date	Section	General Secretary	Address	Magazine	Email address
1947	Africa, East and Central	... Mr Navin B. Shah	... PO Box 14804, 00800-Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya	... <i>The Theosophical Light</i>	navinmeera@hotmail.com
1909	Africa, South	... Mrs Susan Kaschula	... No.3, 'Cragwood', 10, 5th St., Parkhurst 2193, Johannesburg, Gateng	... <i>The South African Theosophist</i>	susan@kaschula.co.za
1956	Africa, West	... Mr P. B. Kwakyi	... PO Box 720, Accra, Ghana	... <i>The West African Theosophist</i>	tswafrica@gmail.com
1929	America, Central *	... Mrs Aura Elena de Martínez	... Calle Julio Mejía Pol. E-7, Colonia Universitaria Norte, San Salvador, El Salvador	...	bemapo03@hotmail.com fcormayorga@hotmail.com
1920	Argentina	... Mrs Silvia Liliana Pastore	... Casilla de Correo 166, 5600 San Rafael, Provincia de Mendoza	... <i>Teosofia en Argentina</i>	stargentina@sociedad-teosofica.com.ar
1990	Asia, Southeast † The Theosophical Society Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India	...	theossoc@dataone.in
1895	Australia	... Dr Dara Tatray	... 4th fl., 484 Kent St., Sydney, NSW 2000	... <i>Theosophy in Australia</i>	tshq@austheos.org.au
1912	Austria *	... Mr Herbert Fuchs	... Joseph Gaubweg 7, A - 8010 Graz	... <i>Theosofie Adyar</i>	herbert.f.fuchs@gmail.com
1911	Belgium	... Mr Jan Jelle Keppler	... Sleutelbloemenlaan 8, 3080 Tervuren	... <i>Le Lotus Bleu</i>	jan.keppler@telenet.be
1965	Bolivia †	... Mrs Teresa W. de Nuñez	... Casilla de Correo 3911, Cochabamba	...	saidita_2945@hotmail.com
1920	Brazil	... Mr Marcos L. B. de Resende	... Sociedade Teosofica no Brazil, SGAS Quadra 603, N. 20, CEP 70200-630 Brasília (DF)	... <i>Sophia</i>	tsbrazil@sociedadeteosofica.org.br
1924	Canada *	... Ms Suzanne Hassanein	... 440 Montrose Drive Beaconsfield, Quebec H9W 1H3	... <i>The Light Bearer</i>	sehassanein@videotron.ca
1920	Chile *	... Miss Ana Gloria Bustos	... Casilla 3603, Santiago 21	... <i>Revista Teosofica Chilena</i>	sociedad.teosofica@gmail.com
1937	Colombia †	... Mrs Julia Ballesteros	... Carrera. 6, No. 56-27 Apto. 201, Bogotá-2	... <i>Selección Teosofica</i>	juliaballesteros@tutopia.com
1997	Costa Rica †	... Ms Maria Orlich	... Apartado 8-6710-1000, San José	...	orlichsm@yahoo.com
2007	Croatia ▲	... Mrs Marija Durda Bosic	... Stj. Radica 1/2, HR - 48260 Krizevci	...	marija.bozic@kc.t-com.hr
1905	Cuba	... Mr Gaspar Torres	... Apartado de Correos 6365, La Habana 10600	...	teocuba.sociedad@gmail.com
1987	Dominican Rep. †	... Mrs Magaly Polanco	... 1652 Sta. Agueda, C7 Les Chalets Court Aptdo. 23, San Juan, PR 00926, USA	...	polanc@prtc.net
1888	England	... Mr Eric McGough	... 50 Gloucester Place, London W1U 8EA	... <i>Insight</i>	office@theosoc.org.uk
1907	Finland	... Ms Marja Artamaa	... Teosofinen Seura, Vironkatu 7 C 2, Fin 00170, Helsinki	... <i>Teosofi</i>	teosofinen.seura@netti.fi
1899	France	... Ms Trần-Thi-Kim-Diêu	... 4 Square Rapp, 75007 Paris	... <i>Le Lotus Bleu</i>	editionsadyar@wanadoo.fr
1902	Germany	... Mrs Manuela Kaulich	... Hauptstr. 39, 93138 Lappersdorf	... <i>Adyar</i>	theosophie-adyar@gmx.de
1928	Greece	... Mr Theodoros Katsifis	... 25 Voukourestiou St., 106 71-Athens	... <i>Ilisos</i>	info@theosophicalsociety.gr
1907	Hungary †	... Mr Thomas Martinovich	... Hunyadi Janos ut 17. II. 8, H-1011 Budapest	... <i>Teozófia</i>	tshutau7@hu.inter.net
1921	Iceland	... Mr Halldór Haraldsson	... PO Box 1257 Ingólfsstræti 22, 121 Reykjavík	... <i>Gangleri</i>	ts@gudspekifelagid.is
1891	India	... Mr S. Sundaram	... The Theosophical Society, Varanasi 221 010	... <i>The Indian Theosophist</i>	theosophy_vns@yahoo.com
1912	Indonesia	... Mr Herry Ispoemomo	... Jalan Anggrek Nelumurni A-104, Jakarta 11410, Timur	... <i>Teosofi</i>	theosofi.indonesia@gmail.com
1919	Ireland *	... Mrs Marie Harkness	... 97 Mountsandel Road, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, UK BT52 ITA	... <i>Insight</i>	marieharkness@yahoo.co.uk

1954	Israel ▲	... Mr Abraham Oron	... PO Box 4014, Ramat-Gan, Israel 52140	... Or	mail@theosophia.co.il
1902	Italy	... Mr Antonio Girardi	... Viale Quintino Sella, 83/E, 36100 Vicenza	... <i>Rivista Italiana di Teosofia</i>	sti@teosofica.org
1997	Ivory Coast *	... Mr Pierre-Magloire Kouahoh	... Yopougon, 23 Rue Princesse B. P. 3924, Abidjan 23	... <i>Sophia</i>	pm_kouahoh@hotmail.com
1971	Japan ▲	... Mr Naotsugu Takahashi	... 4-12-11 Nakamachi, Nishi Tokyoshi, Tokyo 202 0013		tsjp@hte.highway.ne.jp
1919	Mexico	... Mrs Lissette Arroyo Jiménez	... Ignacio Mariscal, 126, Col. Tabacalera C.P. 06470 Mexico I, D.F.		sociedadteosofica@prodigy.net.mx
1897	Netherlands, The	... Mrs Wies Kuiper	... Tolstraat 154, 1074 VM Amsterdam	... <i>Theosophia</i>	info@theosofie.nl
1896	New Zealand	... Mr Warwick Keys	... 17, Belvedere Street, Epsom, Auckland 1051	... <i>TheoSophia</i>	hq@theosophy.org.nz
1913	Norway *	... Mrs Agnes Gaasemyr	... Stadion vei 9, N - 5162 Laksevaag	... <i>Teosofen</i>	agnesgaasemyr@gmail.com
1948	Pakistan †		... Jamshed Memorial Hall, M. A. Jinna Road, Karachi	... <i>The Karachi Theosophist</i>	
1924	Peru †	... Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar	... Jr. Republica de Portugal 152, Breña, Lima 5	... <i>Búsqueda</i>	teosoficaperu@hotmail.com
1933	Philippines, The	... Mr Vicente Haó Chin, Jr.	... Corner P. Florentino and Iba Streets, Quezon City, Manila	... <i>The Philippine Theosophist</i>	philtheos@gmail.com
1921	Portugal	... Dr Licio Correia	... Sociedade Teosofica de Portugal Rua Passos Manoel no. 20 cave 1150 - 260 Lisboa	... <i>Osiris</i>	geral@sociedadeteosoficadeportugal.pt
1925	Puerto Rico †	... Dr Eladio Polanco	... 1652 Sta. Agueda, C7 Les Chalets Court Aptdo. 23, San Juan, PR 00926, USA	... <i>Heraldo Teosófico</i>	polancoeladio@yahoo.com
1910	Scotland *	... Mr Stuart Trotter	... 28 Great King Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6QH	... <i>Circles</i>	stuarttrotter@hotmail.com
1889	Singapore ▲	... Mr Chong Sanne	... 540 Sims Avenue, No 03-04 Sims Avenue Centre, Singapore 387603	... <i>Newsletter</i>	sanne@singaporelodge.org
1992	Slovenia *	... Dr Dušan Žgaj	... Kunaverjeva 1 SLO-1000 Ljubljana	... <i>Teozofska Misel</i>	zagardusan@yahoo.com
1921	Spain	... Mrs Clarisa Elósegui	... Arenys de Mar, n.14, Iro - Ira E - 08225 Terrassa - Barcelona	... <i>Sophia</i>	clarisaelo@gmail.com
1926	Sri Lanka †	... Mr S. M. Jayatilleke	... 20/13, Race Course Road, Badulla (BD) 90000	... <i>The Sri Lanka Theosophist</i>	jayatilakesm@gmail.com
1895	Sweden	... Mr Peretti Spets	... Henriksdalsringen 23, SE - 131 32 Nacka	... <i>Tidlös Visdom</i>	teosofiska.samfundet.adyar@telia.com
1910	Switzerland †	... Mrs Eliane Gaillard	... 17 Chemin de la Côte, CH -1282 Dardagny, Genève	... <i>The Lotus</i>	egaillard@bluewin.ch
1997	Togo * S.O., B.P. 76 Kpélé, Adeta		
2007	Ukraine ▲	... Mrs Svitlana Gavrylenko	... Office 3, 7-and Zhylianska St., Kiev 01033		ankh@voliacable.com
1886	USA	... Mrs Betty Bland	... PO Box 270, Wheaton, IL 60189-0270	... <i>The Quest</i>	olcott@theosmail.net
1925	Uruguay *	... Mr Nelson Corrales	... Javier Barrios Amorín 1085, Casilla de Correos 1553, Montevideo		samadhi@internet.com.uy
1922	Wales *	... Ms Julie Cunningham	... Tan y fron, Red Wharf Bay, Penrtheth Anglesey, Gwynedd LL75 8HJ UK	... <i>Insight</i>	jecunningham@yahoo.co.uk

Date refers to the date of formation

* Regional Association

† Presidential Agency

▲ Lodge attached to Adyar

The Council of the European Federation of National Societies: *Chairman:* Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, 67 Rue des Pommiers, F-45000 Orleans, France. Email: kimdieu_ts@magic.fr
 Inter-American Theosophical Federation: *President:* Mrs Terezinha Kind, SHIS QI 28 Conjunto 1, casa 29 - Lago Sul, Brasília DFF - 71.670-210, Brazil. Email: t.kind@terra.com.br
 Indo-Pacific Theosophical Federation: *President:* Mr John Vorstermans, 60B Riro Street, Point Chevalier, Auckland 1022, New Zealand. Email: john@theosophy.org.nz
 Pan-African Theosophical Federation: *Chairman:* Mr Kiran K. Shah, 55A Third Parklands Avenue, PO Box 40149, Nairobi 00100, Kenya. Email: kirankh33@gmail.com

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Mr Gabriel Burgos Suarez, Transversal 19, No.61-32 Bogotá 2, Colombia (South America) (for 2006, 2007 and 2008)

Mr Conrad Jamieson, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India (for 2006, 2007 and 2008)

Mr D. K. Govindaraj, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India (for 2007, 2008 and 2009)

Miss Trân-Thi-Kim-Diêu, 67 Rue des Pommiers, F-45000 Orléans, France (for 2008, 2009 and 2010)

Miss Joy Mills, 22 Krotona Hill, Ojai, CA 93023, USA (for 2008, 2009 and 2010)

Mr Surendra Narayan, F-225A Lane W5-B Sainik Farms, New Delhi 110 062, India (for 2008, 2009 and 2010)

Mrs Terezinha Franca Kind, SHIS QI 28 Conjunto 1, Casa 29 - Lago Sul, Brasilia DFF - 71.670-210, Brazil (for 2008, 2009 and 2010)

Mrs Helen Jamieson, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India (for 2009, 2010 and 2011)

Mr Ricardo Lindemann, SQS 403 Bloco F Ap. 305, 70.237-060 Brasilia DF Brazil (for 2009, 2010 and 2011)

Mr H. K. Sharan, 180 Shantipally, E. M. Bypass, Rajdanga Main Rd, Kolkata, India (for 2009, 2010 and 2011)

Mr Sriram Panchu, 16 Temple Glade Apt, 67 Beach Rd, Kalakshetra Colony, Chennai, India (for 2009, 2010 and 2011)

MINUTES

of the Meeting of the General Council of the Theosophical Society
held on Saturday, 25 December 2008, at Adyar

PRESENT

Mrs Radha Burnier	<i>President (in the chair) and proxy for Mexico</i>
Mrs Linda Oliveira	<i>Vice-President, General Secretary, Australia</i>
Miss Keshwar Dastur	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mr Keith Fisher	<i>Secretary</i>
Mr Navin B. Shah	<i>General Secretary, East and Central Africa</i>
Mrs Susan Kaschula	<i>General Secretary, South Africa</i>
Mr Marcos L. B. Resende	<i>General Secretary, Brazil, proxy for Argentina and Greece</i>
Mr Jan Jelle Keppler	<i>General Secretary, Belgium</i>
Miss Marja Artamaa	<i>General Secretary, Finland, proxy for England</i>
Mr S. Sundaram	<i>General Secretary, India</i>
Mr Antonio Girardi	<i>General Secretary, Italy</i>
Ms Wies Kuiper	<i>General Secretary, Netherlands, proxy for Terezinha Kind</i>
Mr Warwick Keys	<i>General Secretary, New Zealand, proxy for Iceland and Gabriel Burgos Suarez</i>
Mr Pertti Spets	<i>General Secretary, Sweden</i>
Mrs Betty Bland	<i>General Secretary, USA, proxy for Joy Mills, Cuba and France</i>
Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu	<i>Additional Member, and proxy for Germany, Spain and Portugal</i>
Mr Conrad Jamieson	<i>Additional Member and proxy for West Africa</i>
Mr Surendra Narayan	<i>Additional Member</i>
Mr D. K. Govindaraj	<i>Additional Member</i>

Present as Observers by invitation:

Dr Dusan Zagar	<i>Organizing Secretary, Slovenia</i>
Dr C. V. Agarwal	<i>Presidential Representative, South-East Asia</i>
Mrs Erica Georgiades	<i>Representing Greece</i>
Mr Colin Price	<i>England</i>
Dr Hans Bormann	<i>Germany</i>
Mr Tom Dede	<i>Hungary</i>
Dr Dara Tatray	<i>Australia</i>
Mr Ricardo Lindemann	<i>Brazil</i>
Ms Patrizia Calvi	<i>Italy</i>
Ms Monica Ostelius	<i>Sweden</i>

The list of proxies was read out as above. The President welcomed those present.

1. Confirmation of Minutes.

The Minutes of the meeting held at Adyar on 25 December 2007 having been circulated, were taken as read and signed.

2. Matters arising out of the Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

3. Confirmation of voting.

(a) *Election of Mrs Linda Oliveira as Vice-President of The Theosophical Society.*

The President had nominated Mrs Linda Oliveira under Rule 11(a) of the Rules and Regulations for election as Vice-President of the Society.

The result of the voting was as follows:

For: 16 Against: 15 Abstained: 5

The voting slips were scrutinized by some of the members of the General Council and Mrs Linda Oliveira was declared elected as the Vice-President of the Society.

(b) *Re-election of Miss Keshwar Dastur as Treasurer of The Theosophical Society.*

The President had nominated Miss Keshwar Dastur for re-election under Rule 13 of the Rules and Regulations as the Treasurer of the Society for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011.

The result of the voting was as follows:

For: 31 Against: 1 Abstained: 3

Miss Keshwar Dastur was declared re-elected as Treasurer of the Society for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011.

(c) *Election of Mrs Helen Jamieson, Mr Ricardo Lindemann, Mr H. K. Sharan, and Mr Sriram Panchu as Additional Members of the General Council.*

The President had nominated Mrs Helen Jamieson, Mr Ricardo Lindemann, Mr H K Sharan, and Mr Sriram Panchu for election under Rule 2(b) of the Rules and Regulations as Additional Members of the General Council for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011.

The result of the voting was as follows:

	<i>For:</i>	<i>Against:</i>	<i>Abstained:</i>
Mrs Helen Jamieson	19	14	2
Mr Ricardo Lindemann	16	16	3
Mr H K Sharan	17	14	4
Mr Sriram Panchu	20	12	3

The voting slips were scrutinized by some of the members of the General Council.

The General Secretary of New Zealand, Mr Warwick Keys, moved to discard the votes that had been cast on signed postal voting slips and take another vote with only those members present at the meeting, and proxies included in the vote. The proposal was not accepted and the motion was withdrawn.

As there was an equal number of votes cast for and against Mr Ricardo Lindemann, the Chairman used a casting vote to decide the result. Mrs Helen Jamieson, Mr Ricardo Lindemann, Mr H. K. Sharan, and Mr Sriram Panchu were declared elected as Additional Members of the General Council for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011.

4. Report on the Non-English Publications Fund.

The Secretary reported that the grant approved by the General Council in December 2007 for printing 3000 copies of an enlarged edition of the *Buddhist Catechism* by Colonel Olcott, was forwarded to the Theosophical Society in Sri Lanka in January 2008. The TS in Sri Lanka reported that all 3000 books have been printed and distributed to Libraries and Schools, except for about 50 copies retained for TS libraries and further distribution.

A further request for a grant of approximately US\$3,300, to print 4000 copies of a book on the work and services of Colonel Olcott, had been received from the TS in Sri Lanka.

5. Report on the International Funds.

The Secretary presented a report on the International Funds held in the USA, Australia and New Zealand, for the year ended 30 September 2008. US\$28,499 was added to the American ABC fund from realized capital gains and AU\$22,500 had been donated to the Australian Adyar Security Fund by the Australian Section.

Disbursements from the fund included US\$6,000 to TOS International, US\$6,875 for legal fees in Ireland, and US\$1,990 for travel expenses.

6. Report by the President on Headquarters.

The Sandalwood trees are still attracting thieves, high prices are paid for the wood due to the demand in Europe for Sandalwood oil to make scents, 50% of the trees have already been lost.

The number of employees is difficult to maintain as many of the workers are attracted to jobs outside the campus by the higher salaries being paid, with which Adyar cannot compete.

A court case started in 1982, claiming industrial rates for pensions, is still pending a final decision by the courts. Fortunately, the lawyers support the TS and only charge expenses.

7. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008.

The Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008, which had been previously circulated, were considered and approved. It was suggested that a Buildings Maintenance Programme be initiated and appeals for donations may be made for specific projects.

8. The Budget for the year ending 31 March 2010.

The Budget for the year ending 31 March 2010, which had been previously circulated, was considered and approved. It was requested that footnotes be provided on future Budgets to provide explanations for items with substantial changes.

9. Appointment of Auditors for the year ending 31 March 2009.

The Treasurer's proposal to change the firm of Auditors to Srihari & Co., for the year ending 31 March 2009, was approved.

10. Appointment of the Executive Committee for 2009.

The following Executive Committee members were appointed for 2009:

Mrs Radha Burnier	President (ex-officio)
Mrs Linda Oliveira	Vice-President (ex-officio)
Miss Keshwar Dastur	Treasurer (ex-officio)
Mr Keith Fisher	Secretary (ex-officio)
Mr D. K. Govindaraj	General Council Member
Mr Surendra Narayan	General Council Member
Mr Sriram Panchu	General Council Member
Dr C. V. Agarwal	Member
Mr S. Harihara Raghavan	Member

11. Discussion on work around the world.

The General Secretary of Italy, Mr Antonio Girardi, reported that a suitable venue for the World Congress in 2010 had been found. It will be held at the Summit Roma Hotel and Convention Centre in Rome from 10 to 15 July 2010. The cost is estimated at 110 Euro for a single room and 88 Euro twin share per night. There will be a full vegetarian catering service and the hotel is near transport and within easy access by train from the airport.

It was suggested that the TS should be represented at the Parliament of World Religions which will be held in Australia in December 2009; submissions are to be received by February 2009. It was generally agreed that the Australian Section or any other TS Section, if they so wished, may be present.

Planetary Union, an organization created by members of the Brazilian Section, which broadcasts theosophical lectures to 66 cities in Brazil by cable TV, to all Central and South America by satellite, and globally on the Internet, was explained in detail. The organization is a non-profit entity and managed independently of the TS so as to place no financial burden or risk on the assets of the TS in Brazil. The directors are all TS members who receive no remuneration. The President noted that this is a new idea and each Section needed to be free to develop its own way of promoting Theosophy.

The East and Central African Section, which is committed to helping Africa's poor, destitute and orphaned people, was recognized for this worthy cause by the Postal Corporation of Kenya by the issue of a postage stamp bearing the logo of the Theosophical Society, and celebrating 100 years of the Theosophical Order of Service.

12. Any Other Business.

Various aspects of the International Rules were raised and discussed. It was agreed that some of the Rules are in need of revision. Proposed changes should be compiled for possible amendment in the future, to ensure that each rule is clear and concise and cannot be easily misinterpreted.

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